JOHN BYRNE
STAR TREK
ASSIGNMENT: EARTH

STAR TREK®
ASSIGNMENT: EARTH

Story and Art by **John Byrne**

Colors by **Tom Smith**

Letters by **Robbie Robbins and Chris Mowry**

Original Edits by **Chris Ryall**

Collection Edits by **Justin Eisinger**

Collection Design by **Neil Uyetake**

ISBN: 9781623025175
9781623025175

STAR TREK created by Gene Roddenberry

Special thanks to Paula Block of CBS Consumer Products for her invaluable assistance.

STAR TREK: ASSIGNMENT EARTH TPB DECEMBER 2008. FIRST PRINTING. STAR TREK® and © 2008 CBS Studios Inc. All Rights Reserved. STAR TREK and related marks are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. IDW Publishing authorized user. All rights reserved. © 2008 Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 5080 Santa Fe St., San Diego, CA 92109. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea.
IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

Originally published as STAR TREK: ASSIGNMENT EARTH issues #1–5.

IDW Publishing
Operations:
Mochi Berger, Chairman
Ted Adams, Chief Executive Officer
Greg Goldstein, Chief Operating Officer
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Alan Payne, VP of Sales
Lorelei Bunjes, Dir. of Digital Services
Marci Hubbard, Executive Assistant
Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager

Editorial:
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Scott Dunbier, Editor, Special Projects
Andy Schmidt, Senior Editor
Justin Eisinger, Editor
Kris Oprisko, Editor/Foreign Lic.
Denton J. Tipton, Editor
Tom Waltz, Editor
Mariah Huehner, Assistant Editor

Design:
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist
Ben Templesmith, Artist/Designer
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Chris Mowry, Graphic Artist
Amauri Osorio, Graphic Artist

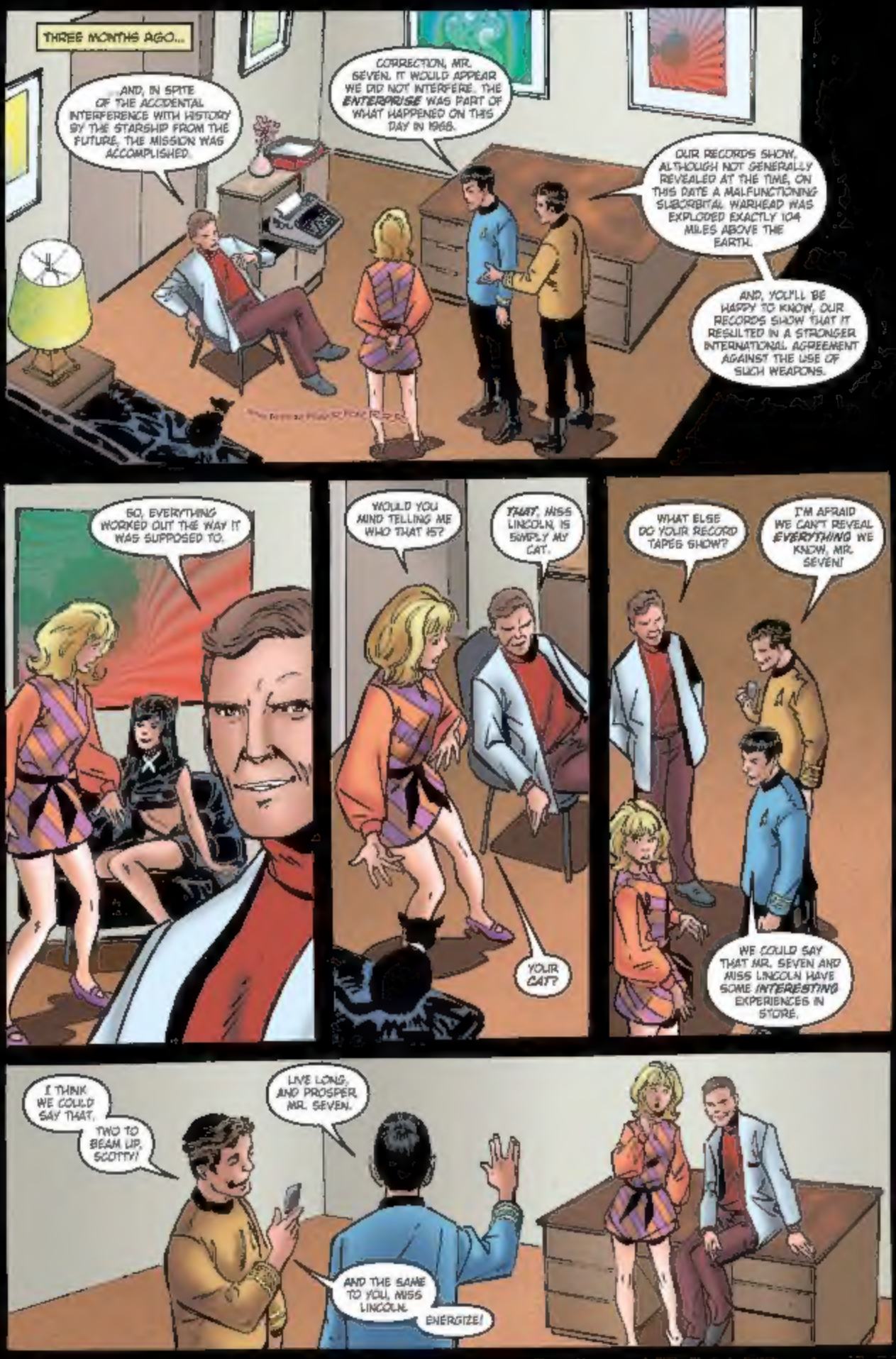
STAR TREK®
ASSIGNMENT: EARTH

His code name is Gary Seven.
On the world where he was raised, he is known as Supervisor 194. Where that world is, only the inhabitants know—but for thousands of years those inhabitants have been taking people from Earth and training them, preparing them for a desperate mission: to save the people of the Earth from their own foolish and warlike nature.

Assisting Gary Seven in his assignment on Earth are Roberta Lincoln, Earth-born, twenty-something, sometimes flighty, sometimes erratic, but with a keen mind and a high IQ, and the Beta Five computer, capable of analytical decisions and not at all shy about informing Supervisor 194 of what it views as his shortcomings.

Oh, yes — and Isis.

CHAPTER
ONE


THREE MONTHS AGO...
...AND, IN SPITE OF THE ACCIDENTAL INTERFERENCE WITH HISTORY BY THE STARSHIP FROM THE FUTURE, THE MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED.
CORRECTION, MR. SEVEN. IT WOULD APPEAR WE DID NOT INTERFERE. THE ENTERPRISE WAS PART OF WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN 1968.
OUR RECORDS SHOW, ALTHOUGH NOT GENERALLY REVEALED AT THE TIME, ON THIS DATE A MALFUNCTIONING SUBORBITAL WARHEAD WAS EXPLODED EXACTLY 104 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH.
AND, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW, OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT IT RESULTED IN A STRONGER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AGAINST THE USE OF SUCH WEAPONS.
SO, EVERYTHING WORKED OUT THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO.
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHO THAT IS?
THAT, MISS LINCOLN, IS SIMPLY MY CAT.
YOUR CAT?
WHAT ELSE DO YOUR RECORD TAPES SHOW?
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T REVEAL EVERYTHING WE KNOW, MR. SEVEN!
WE COULD SAY THAT MR. SEVEN AND MISS LINCOLN HAVE SOME INTERESTING EXPERIENCES IN STORE.
I THINK WE COULD SAY THAT.
TWO TO BEAM UP, SCOTTY!
LIVE LONG, AND PROSPER, MR. SEVEN.
AND THE SAME TO YOU, MISS LINCOLN.
ENERGIZE!

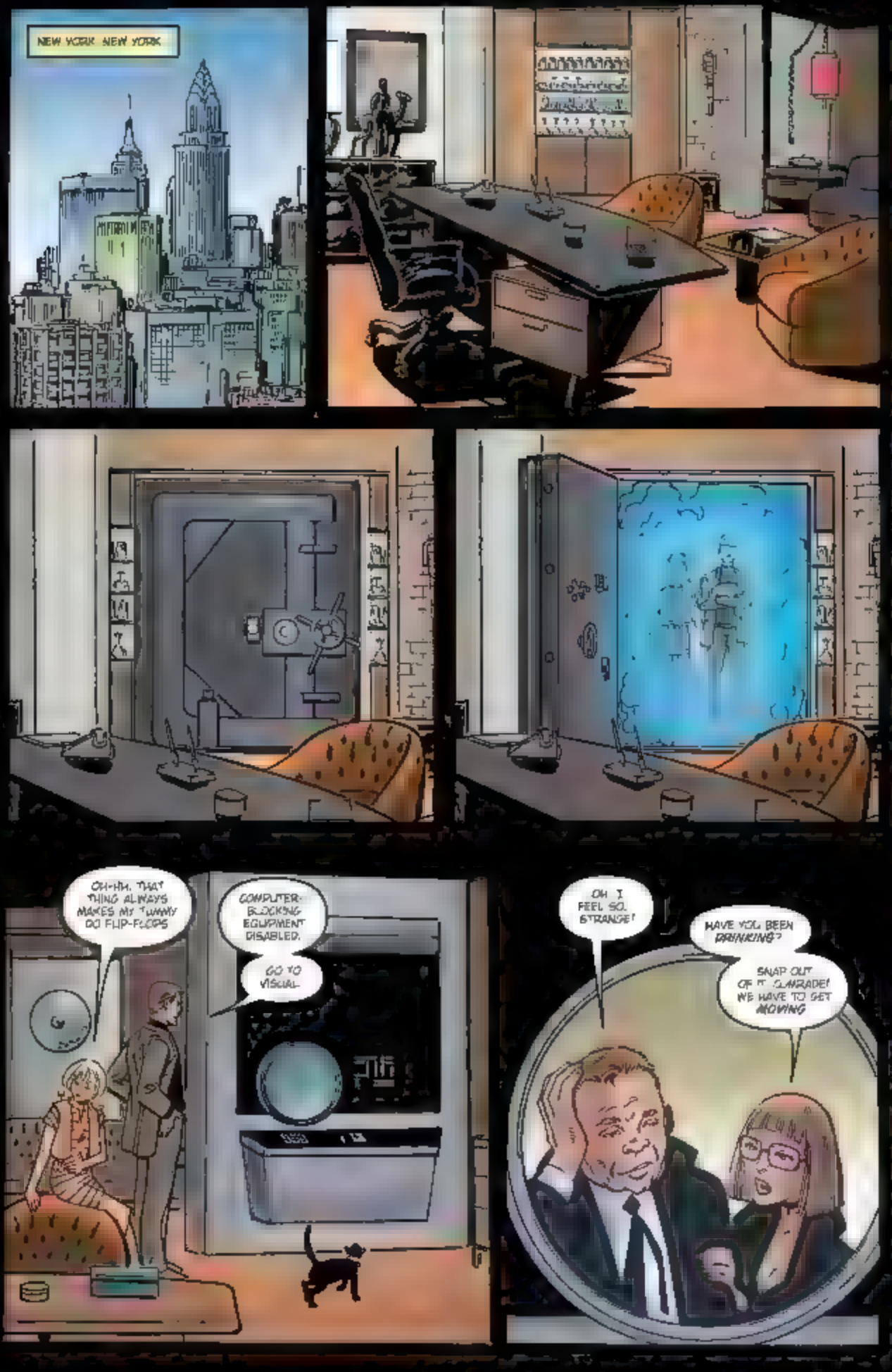
BRIGHTER THAN A THOUSAND SUNS

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO.
THREE MONTHS LATER.
OH-HHHH, MR. SEVEN!
THERE HAD TO HAVE BEEN AN EASIER WAY TO DO THIS!
ORDINARILY, WE'D JUST TELEPORT RIGHT TO THE TARGET LOCATION...
...BUT SOMETHING IS BLOCKING THE TELEPORTATION UNIT, AND OUR ABILITY TO DO VISUAL SCANS.
ST
DRUGS

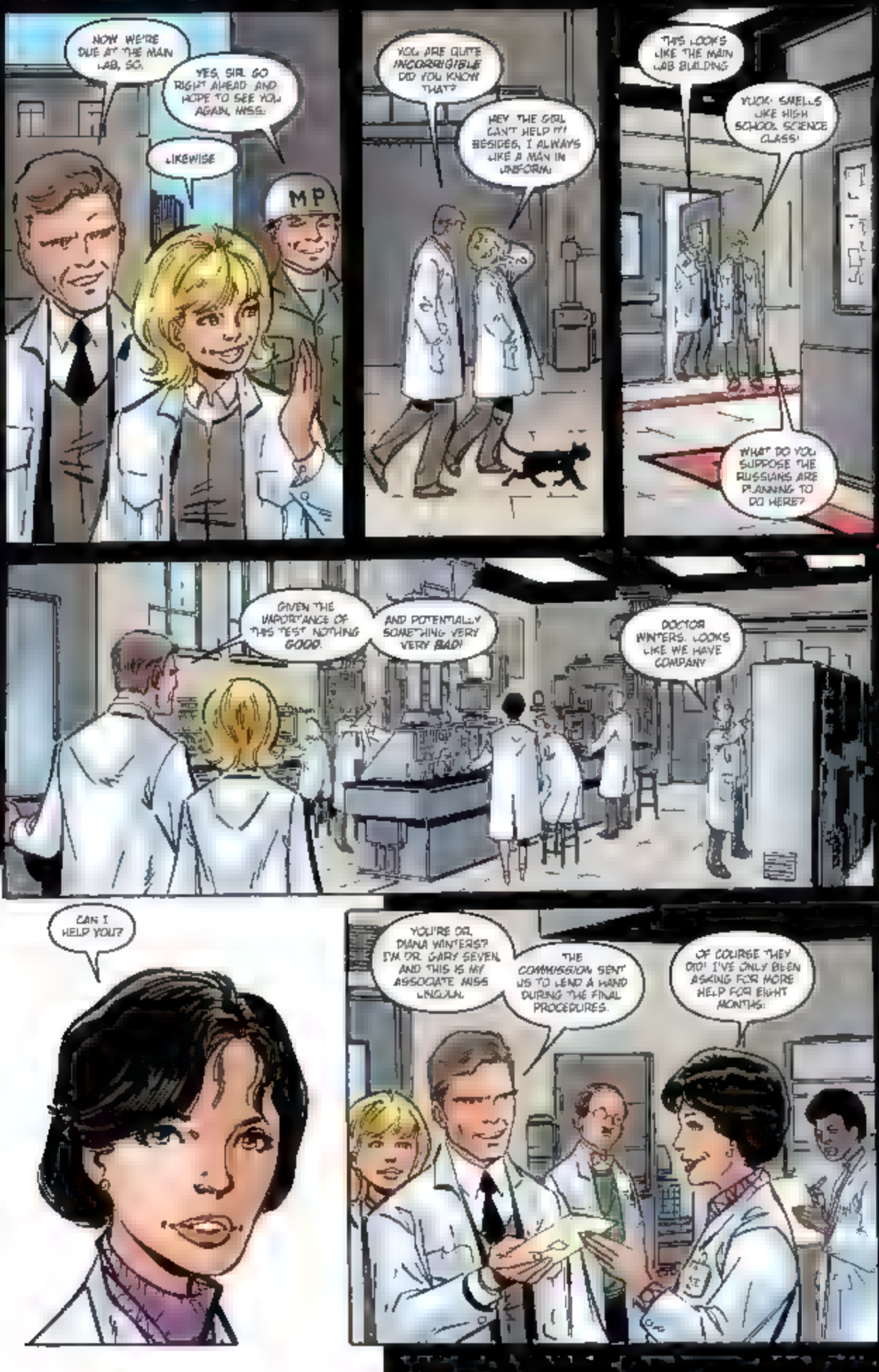
BUT... SURELY THERE'S NO TECHNOLOGY ON EARTH THAT CAN DO THAT!
I WOULD HAVE SAID NOT.
OKAY, ISIS, IN YOU GO.
BUT THE FACT EXISTS.
AND THAT LEAVES US ENTERING BY MORE PROSAIC MEANS.
I DON'T THINK HAVING A TRAINED CAT OPEN WINDOWS FOR YOU IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY "PROSAIC"!
HOW THE HECK DID SHE DO THAT, ANYWAY?
ISIS HAS MANY SKILLS, ROBERTA.
NOW, LOOK AROUND. THE BETA FIVE COMPUTER DETECTED ALL KINDS OF CODED COMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC GOING IN AND OUT OF THIS OFFICE.
WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. AND HOW THEY CAN BLOCK OUR TELEPORTER.
WELL, ZERO OUT OF TEN FOR HOUSEKEEPING, TO START WITH. WHAT A DUMP!
I THOUGHT SPIES WERE SUPPOSED TO LEAD GLAMOROUS LIVES!
ONLY IN THE MOVIES, ROBERTA.

THIS DRAWER IS LOCKED. PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING INSIDE.
GOTTA BE BETTER THAN THIS BOX! DISCOUNT OFFICE SUPPLIES! SOLD TO A COMPANY CALLED "ORION MARKETING."
JUST A FRONT, I EXPECT.
HM. DISAPPOINTING. THIS IS JUST STANDARD SOVIET HARDWARE.
SOVIET? YOU MEAN THIS IS SOME KIND OF RUSSIAN...?
SOMEONE'S COMING!
OKAY, NOW, BIG FELLA...
...WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER HERE AND SIT DOWN.
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE BRIGHTEST BULB IN THE BOX!
YOU HAVE A DEVICE TO BLOCK TELEPORTER SIGNALS.
WHERE IS IT—AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

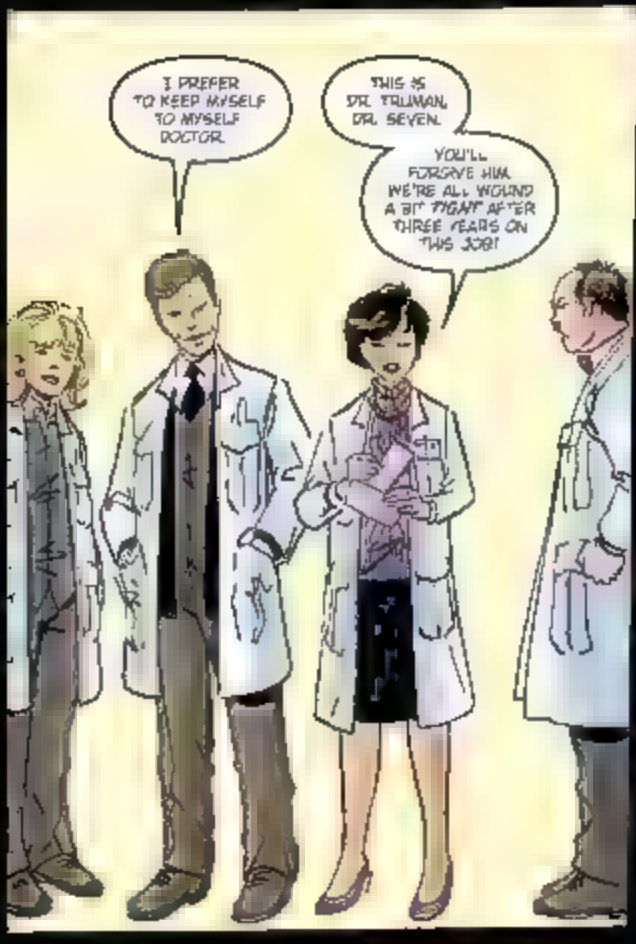
IT WAS SENT IN LAST COURIER PACKAGE FROM MOSCOW. I DO NOT KNOW HOW IT WORKS.
IT IS HIDDEN BEHIND THE PICTURE BY THE DOOR.
YES—HERE IT IS.
HUH! THAT LOOKS MORE LIKE THE INSIDES OF MY TRANSISTOR RADIO THAN SOME KIND OF SUPER TECHNOLOGY!
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT, ROBERTA.
COMPUTER, SCAN.
CONVENTIONAL TERRESTRIAL TECHNOLOGY. PRINTED CIRCUITS AND TRANSISTORS.
BUT ENERGY LEVELS ARE AT MARK FOUR.
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! THAT'S HUNDREDS OF YEARS AHEAD OF PRESENT DAY EARTH!
HUNDREDS OF YEARS?
GRRRR-OWRRR
IVAN!
WHAT IS DELAYING...
...IVAN?


NEW YORK NEW YORK
OH-HH. THAT THING ALWAYS MAKES MY TUMMY DO FLIP-FLOPS
COMPUTER: BLOCKING EQUIPMENT DISABLED.
GO YO VISUAL
OH I FEEL SO STRANGE!
HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING?
SNAP OUT OF IT COMRADE! WE HAVE TO GET MOVING

THE LAST COMPONENT WILL BE DELIVERED WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.
WE NEED TO BE OUT OF THIS COUNTRY BEFORE HERCULES IS FIRED!
"HERCULES"?
THE CODE NAME FOR A TOP SECRET NUCLEAR TEST BETA FIVE HAS BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW.
"WE NEED TO GO BACK TO NEW MEXICO."
SAN LOBOS Atomic Research Facility
STOP
ALL RIGHT, ROBERTA. ALL CLEAR.
LAB COATS? AND WHAT'S WITH THESE BORING CLOTHES?
BETA FIVE WANTS US TO BLEND IN. THIS IS THE BEST WAY.
'SCUSE ME, SIR. CAN I SEE YOUR I.D.?
OF COURSE, CORPORAL.
MY ASSOCIATE AND I ARE NEW HERE.
THAT LOOKS IN ORDER. THANK YOU, SIR.

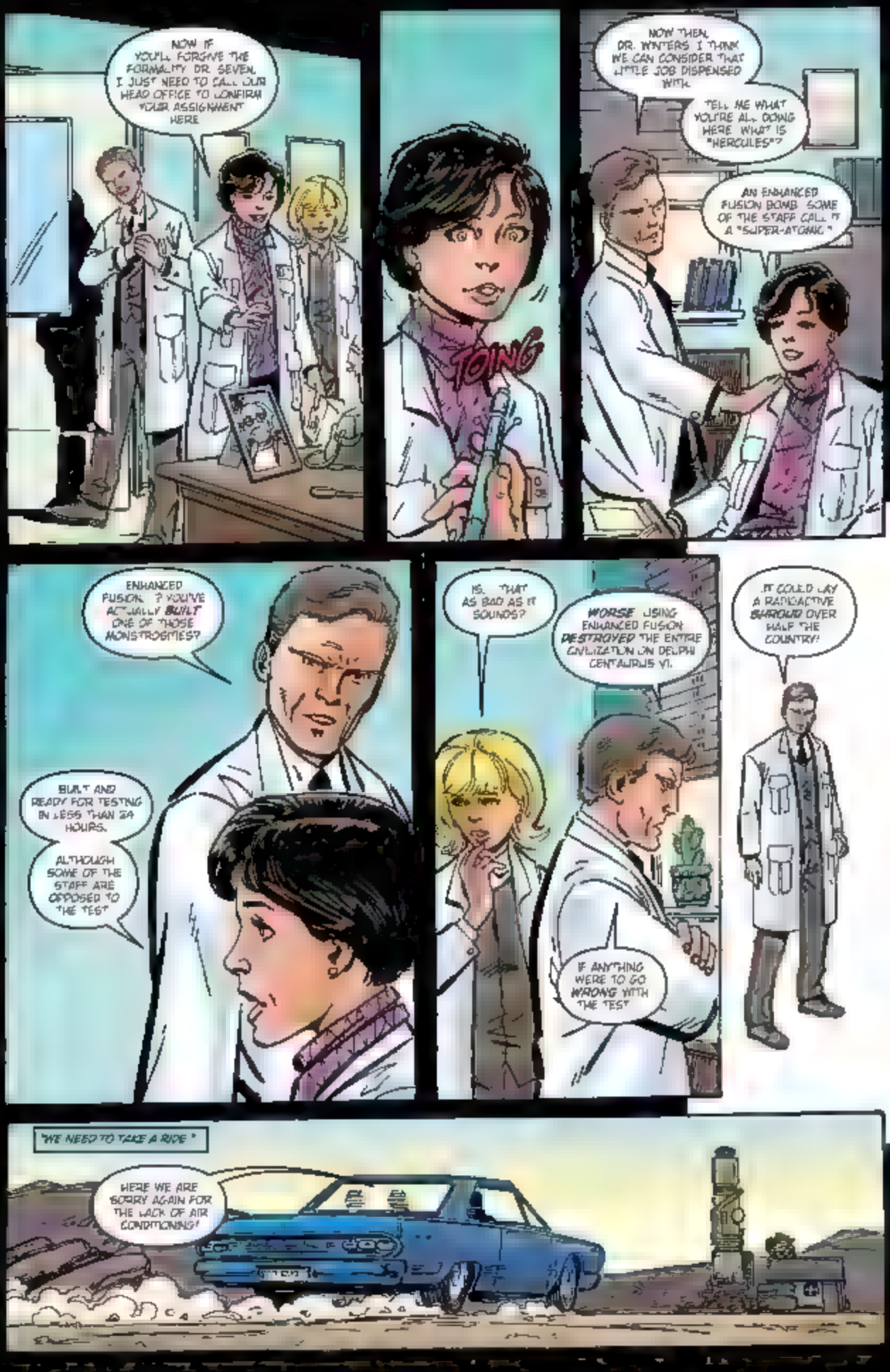

NOW WE'RE DUE AT THE MAIN LAB, SO.
YES, SIR. GO RIGHT AHEAD AND HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MISS.
LIKEWISE
MP
YOU ARE QUITE INCORRIGIBLE DO YOU KNOW THAT?
HEY THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT! BESIDES, I ALWAYS LIKE A MAN IN UNIFORM.
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE MAIN LAB BUILDING
YUCK! SMELLS LIKE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASS!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THE RUSSIANS ARE PLANNING TO DO HERE?
GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TEST NOTHING GOOD.
AND POTENTIALLY SOMETHING VERY VERY BAD!
DOCTOR WINTERS. LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY
CAN I HELP YOU?
YOU'RE DR. DIANA WINTERS? I'M DR. GARY SEVEN, AND THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE MISS LINDUM.
THE COMMISSION SENT US TO LEND A HAND DURING THE FINAL PROCEDURES.
OF COURSE THEY DID! I'VE ONLY BEEN ASKING FOR MORE HELP FOR EIGHT MONTHS.

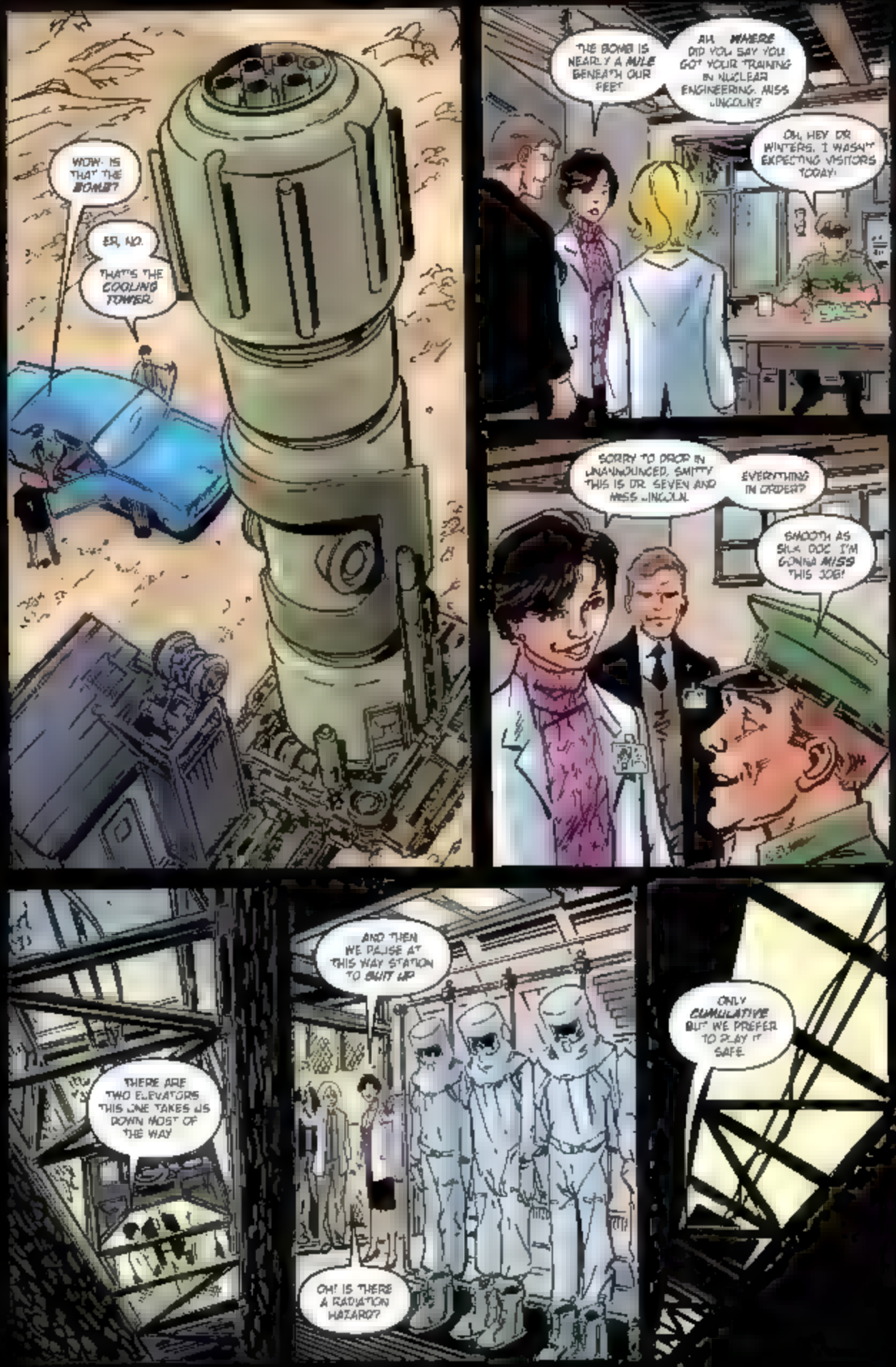
YOUR CREDENTIALS ARE MOST IMPRESSIVE. DR SEVEN CAL TECH MIT. CAMBRIDGE.
THEN WHY HAVE I NEVER HEARD OF HIM. SOMEONE WITH THAT KIND OF RESUME SHOULD HAVE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF!


I PREFER TO KEEP MYSELF TO MYSELF DOCTOR.
THIS IS DR. TRUMAN, DR. SEVEN.
YOU'LL FORGIVE HIM. WE'RE ALL WOUND A BIT TIGHT AFTER THREE YEARS ON THIS JOB!

MEET THE REST OF OUR HAPPY FAMILY
DR. BERTRAND CARLISLE OF ...IAN FROM OXFORD.
PROFESSOR AMANDA PARSONS. FROM MIDWESTERN.
DR. ANGELA FRANKLIN, FROM YALE.
PLEASURE
HELLO!

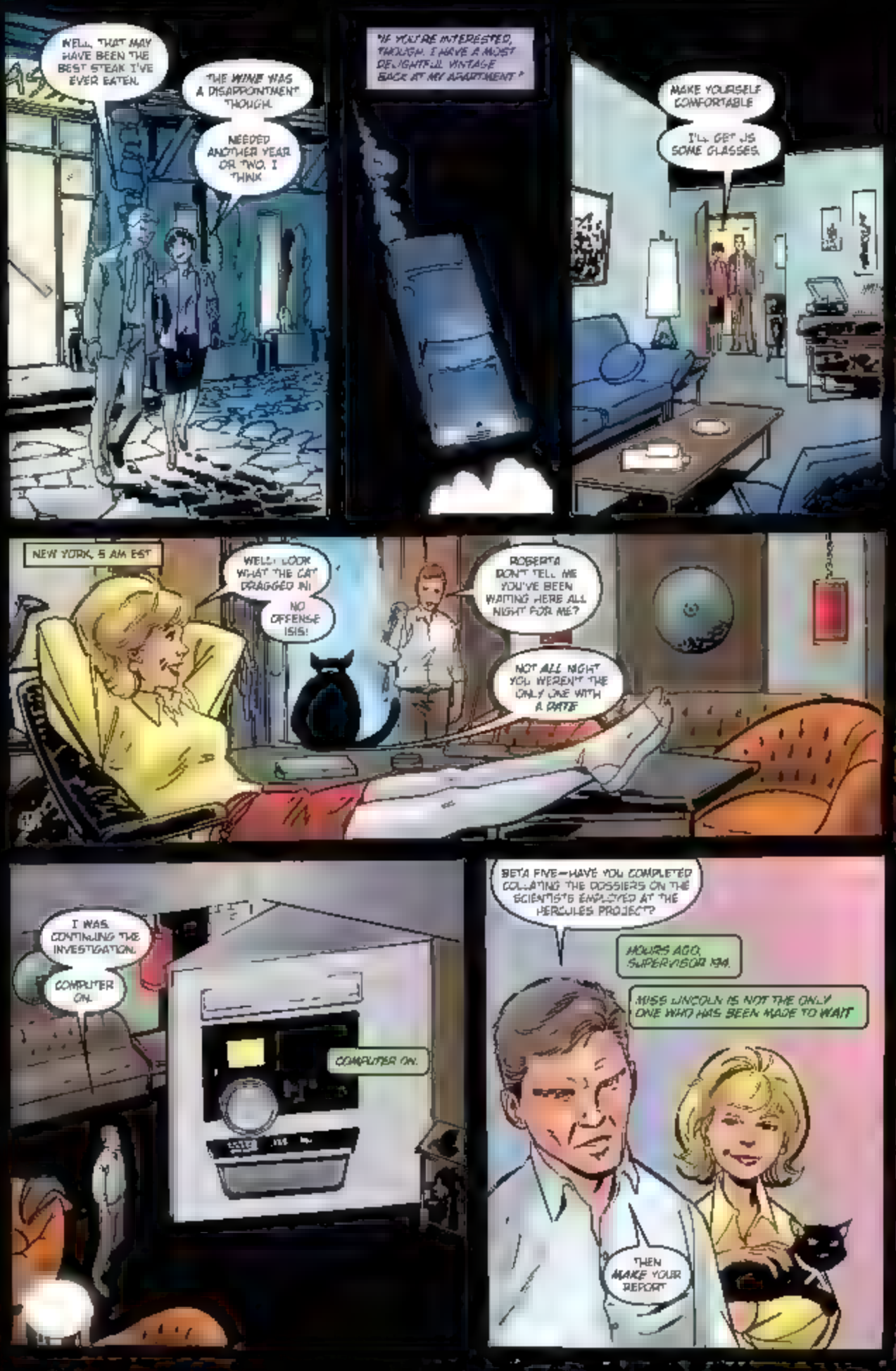
I'M CHRIS DANTZAL AND THIS IS DR. DUMONT AND PROFESSOR ...ARROW
THAT'S ALMOST OUR WHOLE TEAM, EXCEPT FOR ONE OR TWO PRESENTLY ON SITE
GLAD TO MEET YOU ALL. I'M SURE IT WILL BE A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU.


NOW IF YOU'LL FORGIVE THE FORMALITY DR. SEVEN, I JUST NEED TO CALL OUR HEAD OFFICE TO CONFIRM YOUR ASSIGNMENT HERE
TOING
NOW THEN, DR. WINTERS I THINK WE CAN CONSIDER THAT LITTLE JOB DISPENSED WITH.
TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE ALL DOING HERE. WHAT IS "HERCULES"?
AN ENHANCED FUSION BOMB. SOME OF THE STAFF CALL IT A "SUPER-ATOMIC."
ENHANCED FUSION...? YOU'VE ACTUALLY BUILT ONE OF THOSE MONSTROSITIES?
BUILT AND READY FOR TESTING IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS.
ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE STAFF ARE OPPOSED TO THE TEST
IS... THAT AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS?
WORSE. USING ENHANCED FUSION DESTROYED THE ENTIRE CIVILIZATION ON DELPHI CENTAURUS VI.
IF ANYTHING WERE TO GO WRONG WITH THE TEST
IT COULD LAY A RADIOACTIVE SHROUD OVER HALF THE COUNTRY!
"WE NEED TO TAKE A RIDE."
HERE WE ARE. SORRY AGAIN FOR THE LACK OF AIR CONDITIONING!


WOW. IS THAT THE BOMB?
ER, NO.
THAT'S THE COOLING TOWER.
THE BOMB IS NEARLY A MILE BENEATH OUR FEET
AH. WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU GOT YOUR TRAINING IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, MISS LINCOLN?
OH, HEY DR WINTERS. I WASN'T EXPECTING VISITORS TODAY!
SORRY TO DROP IN UNANNOUNCED, SMITTY THIS IS DR. SEVEN AND MISS LINCOLN.
EVERYTHING IN ORDER?
SMOOTH AS SILK DOC I'M GONNA MISS THIS JOB!
THERE ARE TWO ELEVATORS THIS ONE TAKES US DOWN MOST OF THE WAY
AND THEN WE PAUSE AT THIS WAY STATION TO SHUT UP
OH! IS THERE A RADIATION HAZARD?
ONLY CUMULATIVE BUT WE PREFER TO PLAY IT SAFE.

AND HERE'S THE REAL BOY WONDER OF THE WHOLE PROJECT
DR. CHARLES WENG. IT WAS A RED-LETTER DAY FOR US WHEN HE DEFECTED.
EVERYTHING ON SCHEDULE, CHARLES?
A LITTLE BIT AHEAD, IN FACT DR. WINTERS
HERCULES SEEMS IMPATIENT TO BE BORN.
MY GOSH! LOOK AT ALL THIS STUFF
YES- AND IN LESS THAN TWO DAYS IT WILL ALL BE VAPORIZED
NO MATTER HOW LONG I LIVE HERE I WILL NEVER GET USED TO AMERICAN EXCESSES AND WASTE!
WE'LL SAVE THAT FOR ANOTHER DAY CHARLES!
THIS WAY DR. SEVEN.
UNHAPPY DEFECTOR?
YES.
WE'LL NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON DR. WENG, I THINK

1A
1B
1C
1D
2A
2B
2C
2D
3A
3B
"I WAS SURPRISED WHEN YOU INVITED ME TO DINNER DR. SEVEN."
GARY ! HOPE I WASN'T BREAKING ANY STRICT RULES OF PROTOCOL
NOT AT ALL
I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK BUSINESS ALL EVENING.
DIANA I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM MY MIND!
THEN MAY I SAY I AM GLAD YOU INVITED ME TO DINNER GARY!


WELL, THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE BEST STEAK I'VE EVER EATEN.
THE WINE WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT THOUGH.
NEEDED ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO, I THINK
"IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, THOUGH, I HAVE A MOST DELIGHTFUL VINTAGE BACK AT MY APARTMENT."
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE
I'LL GET US SOME GLASSES.
NEW YORK, 5 AM EST
WELL! LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN!
NO OFFENSE ISIS!
ROBERTA DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN WAITING HERE ALL NIGHT FOR ME?
NOT ALL NIGHT YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH A DATE
I WAS CONTINUING THE INVESTIGATION.
COMPUTER ON.
COMPUTER ON.
BETA FIVE—HAVE YOU COMPLETED COLLATING THE DOSSIERS ON THE SCIENTISTS EMPLOYED AT THE HERCULES PROJECT?
HOURS AGO, SUPERVISOR 934.
MISS LINCOLN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS BEEN MADE TO WAIT
THEN MAKE YOUR REPORT

CARLISLE BERTRAND.
BORN JANUARY 15TH 1892 GRADUATED OXFORD IN 1915 WITH JOINT DOCTORATES IN PARTICLE PHYSICS QUANTUM MECHANICS AND THERMONUCLEAR INTEGRATION. CURRENTLY HOLDS THE CHAIR IN THE ADVANCED SPECULATIVE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT ON WORKING VISA IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1924 NO POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS.

DANTON, CHRISTOPHER.
BORN NOVEMBER 8TH, 1920. SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINES IN WORLD WAR TWO. TWICE WOUNDED MEDALS FOR CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY. GRADUATED YALE IN 1948, HARVARD IN 1942 DOCTORATES IN PARTICLE PHYSICS APPLIED THERMONUCLEAR ENERGY MARRIED WITH TWO DAUGHTERS VOTED REPUBLICAN IN THE LAST THREE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

DUMONT ARCHIBALD.
BORN SEPTEMBER 30TH. 1918 GRADUATED HARVARD IN 1939 WITH A DOCTORATE IN PHYSICS CHEMISTRY AND ASTROPHYSICS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF NASA ASSOCIATED WITH MERCURY GEMINI AND APOLLO PROGRAMS. JOINED PROJECT HERCULES IN 1966 AT THE REQUEST OF DIANA WINTERS REGISTERED INDEPENDENT

FRANKLIN, ANGELA
BORN DECEMBER 24TH, 1930. GRADUATED YALE AND PRINCETON 1954 AND 1956 RESPECTIVELY DOCTOR OF PHYSICS AND EXPERIMENTAL CHEMISTRY MASTERS IN BIOLOGY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ROMANCE LANGUAGES SERVED IN ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN POST-WAR KOREA. 1958 THRU 1961. REGISTERED DEMOCRAT

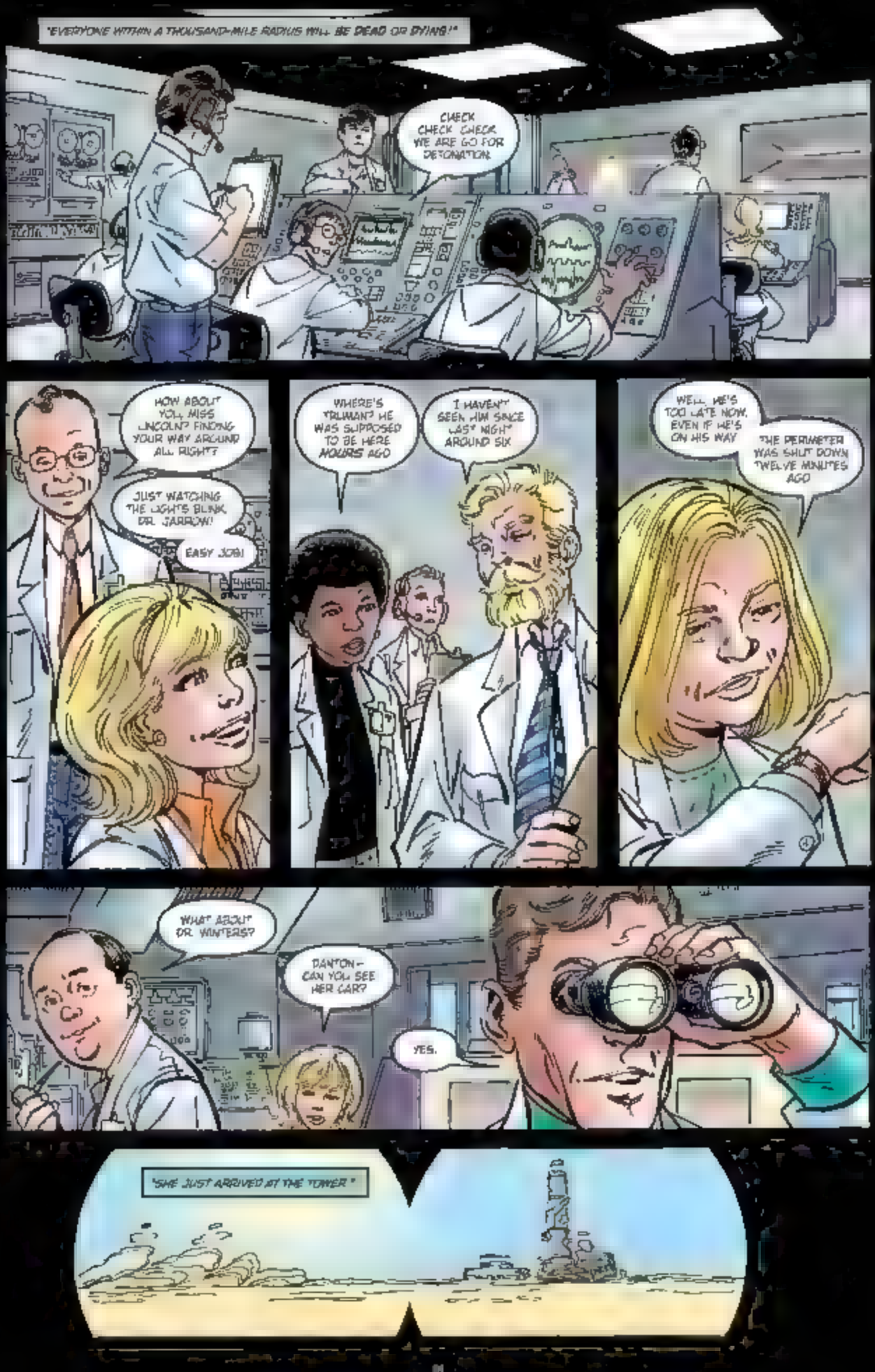
JARROW, THORVELDT
BORN APRIL 3RD 1918. GRADUATED NIELS BOHR TEACHING INSTITUTE IN 1938 WITH DEGREES IN PHYSICS, ELECTRONICS QUANTUM MECHANICS SERVED IN SWEDISH UNDERGROUND DURING WORLD WAR TWO CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED FOR THREE YEARS BY NAZI OCCUPYING FORCES BADLY TORTURED. UNABLE TO USE LEFT ARM AS A RESULT IMMIGRATES TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1956 MARRIED FIVE CHILDREN POLITICALLY ACTIVE BUT NO PARTY AFFILIATIONS

PARSONS, AMANDA.
BORN JULY 5TH 1927 GRADUATED MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY 1948 HOLDS CHAIR THERE IN ADVANCED SPECULATIVE PHYSICS AND NUCLEAR FUSION LONGEST STANDING MEMBER OF THE HERCULES PROJECT JOINED IN 1961 AUTHOR OF SEVEN VOLUME HISTORY OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS IN 1958 UNMARRIED APOLITICAL

TRUMAN, ARTHUR
BORN OCTOBER 31ST 1917. GRADUATED CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 1938 WITH DOCTORATES IN CHEMISTRY PHYSICS AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE WORKED ON WORLD WAR TWO MANHATTAN PROJECT WITH ROBERT OPPENHEIMER. PARTICIPATED IN DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN BOMB BY EDWARD TELLER MARRIED IN 1942, JOINED ARMY AIR CORPS IN 1943. WIFE KILLED IN BOMBING RAID WHEN HE WAS STATIONED IN JAPAN IN 1944. REGISTERED DEMOCRAT

MENG, CHANGMING "CHARLES."
BORN PEKING, CHINA. AUGUST 4TH, 1938. DOCTOR OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY FROM MAO TSE TUNG PEOPLE'S COLLECTIVE UNIVERSITY 1958 SERVED IN PEOPLES ARMY 1959 TO 1965 DEFECTED TO UNITED STATES 1965 JOINED HERCULES 1966 UNMARRIED NO KNOWN POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

WINTERS, DIANA.
BORN MARCH 26TH 1930 GRADUATED SUMA CUM LAUDE FROM WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE DOCTORATES IN PARTICLE PHYSICS AND NUCLEAR THEORY MASTERS IN CHEMISTRY QUANTUM ENGINEERING ADVANCED ELECTROMAGNETIC THEORY JOINED HERCULES IN 1966. PROMOTED TO PROJECT HEAD IN 1967 UNMARRIED NO LIVING RELATIVES. NO KNOWN POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS
JEEPERS—THEY'RE ALL SO SQUEAKY CLEAN!
BUT I THINK TRUMAN AND WENG ARE STILL THE ONES TO WATCH.
I AGREE.
BUT RIGHT NOW WE SHOULD BOTH GET SOME SLEEP
"WE HAVE A BUSY DAY TOMORROW."
ALBUQUERQUE, 4:58 AM.
I WUZ 'BOUT READY TTHINK YOU WEREN'T COMIN' PARDNER.
SPARE ME THE JOHN WAYNE IMPRESSION.
IS THAT IT?
YUP.
TH' LAST PART
YOU SLIP THAT INTO THE USUAL HIDING PLACE
AND NUMBER ONE WILL MAKE SURE IT'S PROPERLY INSTALLED.
AND YOU STILL HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING ME WHO THIS "NUMBER ONE" IS, DO YOU?
WELL... AFTER SIX O'CLOCK TONIGHT I SUPPOSE IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE!


"EVERYONE WITHIN A THOUSAND-MILE RADIUS WILL BE DEAD OR DYING!"
CHECK CHECK CHECK WE ARE GO FOR DETONATION
HOW ABOUT YOU, MISS LINCOLN? FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND ALL RIGHT?
JUST WATCHING THE LIGHTS BLINK, DR. JARROW!
EASY JOB!
WHERE'S TRUMAN? HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE HOURS AGO
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE LAST NIGHT AROUND SIX
WELL, HE'S TOO LATE NOW, EVEN IF HE'S ON HIS WAY
THE PERIMETER WAS SHUT DOWN TWELVE MINUTES AGO
WHAT ABOUT DR. WINTERS?
DANTON— CAN YOU SEE HER CAR?
YES.
"SHE JUST ARRIVED AT THE TOWER."

ALL PACKED UP, SMITTY?
READY TO GO, DOCTOR.
DON'T TAKE TOO LONG
I WON'T
THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE VERY LONG AT ALL
DON'T MOVE, DOCTOR.
AND KEEP YOUR HANDS IN PLAIN SIGHT!
TRUMAN! WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS, DOCTOR?
ALL THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FAR TOO LONG. TODAY IT ENDS
I CAN'T SAY I'LL MISS YOU, DIANA.
TOMB

GARY! WHAT...?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN RIGHT NOW, DIANA. WE'RE ALL IN POTENTIALLY GRAVE DANGER.
WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE SURFACE AND SHUT DOWN THE TEST.
TAKE THIS. I CAN'T HANDLE TRUMAN AND HOLD HIS WEAPON.
YOU'RE RIGHT GARY
YOU ARE IN GRAVE DANGER.
BUT NOT FROM DR. TRUMAN.
NOW IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME.
I HAVE A JOB TO FINISH.

UHHNNH...
DIANA! DIANA IS THE SOVIET AGENT!
AND SHE FOOLED ME COMPLETELY!
DAMN. SHE'S LOCKED THE ELEVATOR AT THE BOTTOM.
THIS SERVICE LADDER WILL TAKE TIME.
BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?
TRUMAN IS STILL BLEEDING OFF THE SERVO SHOT
UNLESS THIS IS A SUICIDE MISSION
I MAY STILL HAVE TIME TO STOP HER!
DIANA!
GARY!
EITHER YOUR SKULL IS THICKER THAN I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
OR I'VE GOTTEN SOFT IN MY CUSHY JOB! WHAT WOULD WENG SAY, I WONDER?
HANDS UP, PLEASE.
I STILL CAN'T BE IEVE IT'S YOU!
ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME "WHY" GARY? WHY HAVE I BETRAYED MY COUNTRY?
QUITE SIMPLY I HAVEN'T WHEN THIS IS DONE. I WILL BE FINALLY GOING HOME
WITH THIS TOY OF YOURS THE KGB SHOULD FIND VERY INTERESTING

AND NOW. GOOD.
NO!
BANG
WHEN SHE TOOK SO LONG COMING BACK...
I FOUND DR. TRUMAN...
HEARD WHAT SHE SAID.
YOU... DID THE RIGHT THING, SMITH.
YOU DID THE ONLY THING

. and further investigation revealed that Diana Winter was the name of a three-year-old girl who was killed with her family in an automobile accident in 1933. The Soviets found her birth records, and used them as the basis for a completely false identity

Project Hercules has been shut down, pending a full investigation. We may never know the full extent of the sabotage. In all likelihood, Hercules will be shut down forever.

I GUESS THAT'S A GOOD THING, HUH, MR. SEVEN?
I MEAN, IF THE BOMB WAS REALLY AS DANGEROUS AS YOU SAID IT WAS.
IT WAS THE DEVASTATION IT COULD HAVE CAUSED. WOULD BE INCALCULABLE

Chapter
Two

WHICH MEANS THE RECENT DISTURBANCES CAN BE CONSIDERED OVER, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT
NEVER GONNA GET USED TO THAT
YOUR ALIEN TECHNOLOGY COULD PUT GIRLS LIKE ME OUT OF WORK!
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ROBERTA.
VOICE RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY IS STILL A LONG WAY IN EARTH'S FUTURE
HAVE YOU SEEN EARTH'S FUTURE MR. SEVEN? REALLY SEEN IT I MEAN?
NO BUT THERE ARE MANY EARTH-LIKE WORLDS THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY ROBERTA AND THE PEOPLE WHO SENT ME HERE.
HAVE BEEN STUDYING THEM FOR MILLENIA IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO EXTRAPOLATE
BEEEEP
OMIGOSH. WHAT'S THAT? I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT SOUND BEFORE
THAT'S THE BETA FIVE COMPUTER'S EMERGENCY ALARM
COMPUTER. REPORT!
NOW IT'S PAST SEVEN. HOW ABOUT IF I BUY YOU DINNER BEFORE -

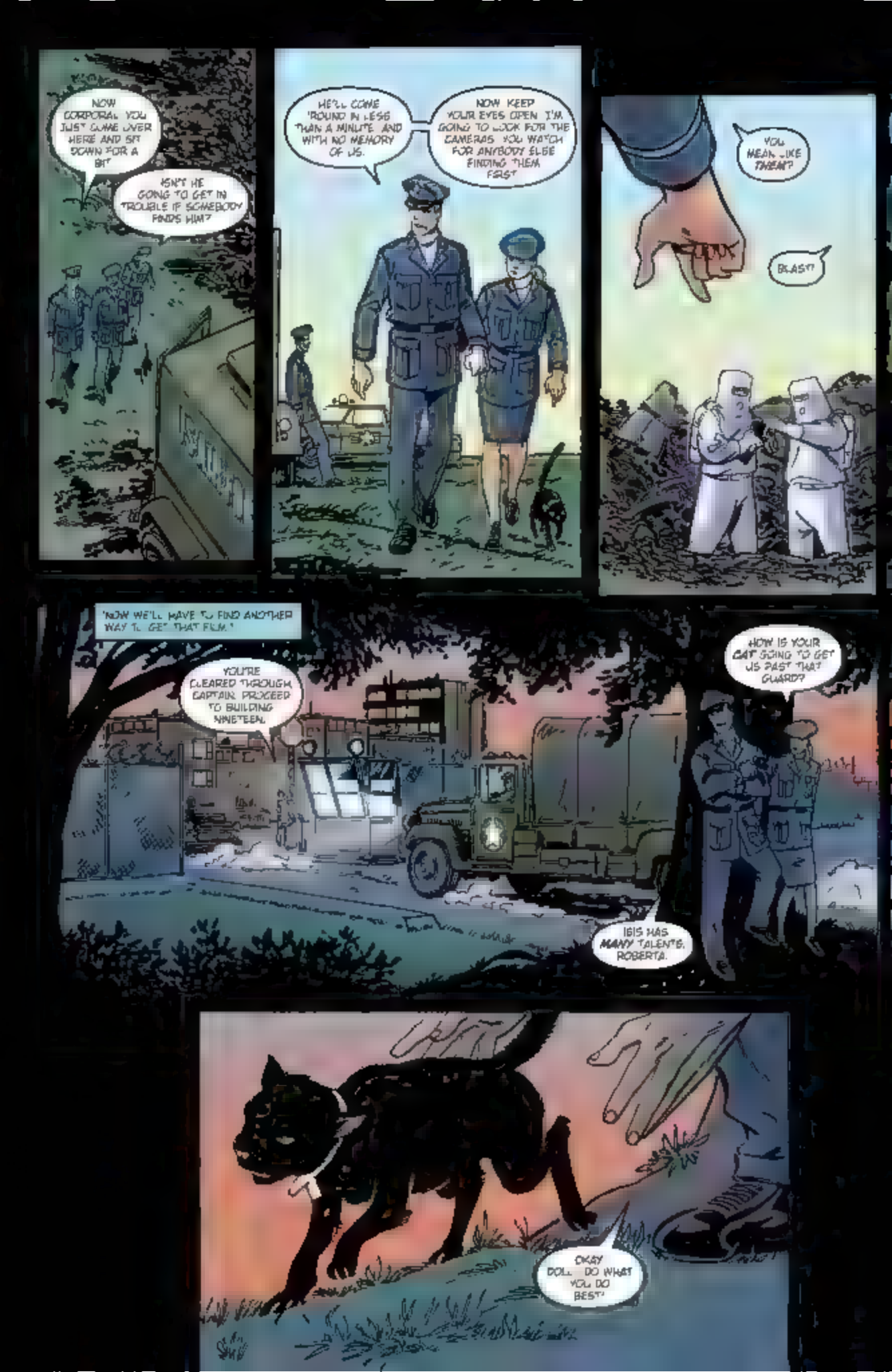
YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

THIS IS THE REASON FOR MY ALARM, SUPERVISOR 194
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
THAT, ROBERTA, IS THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE
AND SHE'S A JOY LONGER IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE THAN SHE SHOULD BE
JOHN STONE STORY AND ART
TOM SMITH COLORING
BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY GENE RODDENBERRY
BASED IN PART ON AN ORIGINAL SCRIPT BY D.C. FONTANA

THE ENTERPRISE? YOU MEAN THOSE SAME GUYS WHO WERE TRYING TO STOP YOU SABOTAGING THAT ATOMIC BOMB PLATFORM WHEN WE FIRST MET?
YES AND NO
BETA FIVE DID A COMPREHENSIVE SCAN OF THE ENTERPRISE WHEN SHE WAS LAST IN ORBIT
AND ACCORDING TO THESE READOUTS, THIS IS THE ENTERPRISE MORE THAN A YEAR BEFORE SHE WAS LAST HERE
HUH? HOW CAN THEY BE HERE BEFORE THEY WERE HERE?
THAT IS AN AIR FORCE JET AND THE PILOT IS FLYING IT ON A DIRECT INTERCEPT COURSE WITH THE ENTERPRISE
BETA FIVE! MONITOR AIR TO GROUND COMMUNICATIONS.
MONITORING GROUND CONTROL HAS ORDERED THE PILOT TO SHOOT DOWN THE STARSHIP
TIME TRAVEL LET'S YOU DO THINGS LIKE THAT
BUT IT LOOKS AS IF WE HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM.
OMIGOSH WHAT'S THAT?
CAN HE DO THAT?
NO. WITH HER SHIELDS UP THE ENTERPRISE CAN RESIST EVEN A NUCLEAR MISSILE OF PRESENT-DAY POWER LEVELS.
SHIELDS ARE NOT ACTIVE, SIR

WARNING THE STARSHIP HAS ACTIVATED ITS TRACTOR BEAMS IT HAS SEIZED THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT
OH, NO! THEY MUST NOT REALIZE HOW FRAGILE 20TH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY CAN BE!
IT'S BREAKING UP! THE JET IS TEARING ITSELF APART
THEY'RE KILLING THE PILOT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE KIRK AND HIS CREW WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
COMPUTER! REPORT!
THE AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE ENTERPRISE IS DEACTIVATING THE TRACTOR BEAM
THE WRECKAGE IS FALLING. I READ NO LIFE FORMS WITHIN THE WRECKAGE
NO LIFEFORMS—? OH, THEY DIDN'T!
SCAN FOR ENERGY SIGNATURES!
POSITIVE ENERGY SIGNATURE OF MATTER TRANSFERAL BEAM BETWEEN STARSHIP AND AIRCRAFT DETECTED
THEY DID! THEY BEAMED THE PILOT OUT OF THE COCKPIT BEFORE THE PLANE WAS CRUSHED
THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
NO ROBERTA. IN MANY WAYS, IT'S ACTUALLY WORSE!
KIRK NOW HAS A 20TH CENTURY HUMAN ABOARD HIS SHIP EVERY MINUTE THE MAN IS THERE HE WILL BE LEARNING MORE AND MORE ABOUT THE FUTURE
THERE IS ANOTHER PROBLEM, SUPERVISOR 294

"THE PILOT TURNED ON HIS WING CAMERAS SET TO "HE AIRCRAF" WAS DESTROYED."
JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD, ROBERTA. DON'T SAY ANYTHING UNLESS ADDRESSED DIRECTLY
HOW ABOUT IF I JUST BLARF INSTEAD?
I AM NEVER GONNA GET USED TO THAT TELEPORTATION THING.
THE AIR FORCE IS ALREADY ON THE SCENE THERE'S NOT MUCH LIKELIHOOD WE CAN FIND THOSE CAMERAS BEFORE THEY DO
WHY DO WE NEED TO FIND THE CAMERAS ANYWAY?
WON'T THIS SEEM LIKE JUST ANOTHER UFO SIGHTING?
UFOS DON'T CRUSH AIR FORCE JETS, ROBERTA.
THE AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO VIEW THIS AS A HOSTILE ACTION BY AN UNKNOWN ENEMY
AND NO ONE MUST BE ALLOWED TO SEE THE FILM OF THE ENTERPRISE IT COULD DO IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE TIME STREAM.
JUST LOOKING AT PICTURES?
PICTURES OF A MYSTERY VESSEL AS BIG AS AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, WITH WRITING ON IT IN ENGLISH THAT WILL GET PEOPLE THINKING
'SCUSE ME, COLONEL. WHERE THE HECK DID YOU COME FROM?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT CORPORAL. I'M COLONEL SEVEN, WITH SECTOR NINE. THIS IS LIEUTENANT LINCOLN, MY ADJUTANT
SECTOR NINE? I'M SORRY COLONEL, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF -
TONG


NOW CORPORAL YOU JUST CLIMB OVER HERE AND SIT DOWN FOR A BIT
ISN'T HE GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE IF SOMEBODY FINDS HIM?
HE'LL COME 'ROUND IN LESS THAN A MINUTE AND WITH NO MEMORY OF US.
NOW KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR THE CAMERAS. YOU WATCH FOR ANYBODY ELSE FINDING THEM FIRST
YOU MEAN LIKE THEM?
BLAST!
'NOW WE'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO GET THAT FILM.'
YOU'RE CLEARED THROUGH, CAPTAIN. PROCEED TO BUILDING NINETEEN.
HOW IS YOUR CAT GOING TO GET US PAST THAT GUARD?
IBIS HAS MANY TALENTS, ROBERTA.
OKAY DOLL... DO WHAT YOU DO BEST!

MP
HUH?
MP
WHAT THE—?
WAIT A MOMENT THERE MISS!
HOW DID YOU GET PAST THE—
WHAT IN THE—?

DONNER. WHAT ARE YOU DOING AWAY FROM YOUR POST? IF THE COLONEL SEES YOU...
THERE WAS A WOMAN! IN THIS SLINKY BLACK OUTFIT SHE CAME AROUND THIS CORNER.
WOMAN? WHAT WOMAN? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SMOKING?
I SAW HER. SHE WAS NO MORE THAN TWENTY FEET AHEAD OF ME. SHE CAME AROUND THAT CORNER--
MP
MP
PRRRRRRRRRRRR...?
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE BEEN TOO LONG WITHOUT A THREE DAY PASS, DONNER.
YOU BETTER GET BACK TO YOUR POST WHILE I TAKE MISS KITTY HERE TO THE IMPOUND--
MP
OH, HELLO, KITTY! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
SHE CAME AROUND THAT CORNER. NO MORE THAN TWENTY FEET--
--BUT THERE'S NOT A DOOR WITHIN A FIFTY FEET--
MP
YEOW!
MROWR!
FSSH!
FSSH!!
SHOULD WE--
LET IT GO
YOU DON'T TELL THE COLONEL I LET A STRAY CAT GET LOOSE ON THE BASE.
MP

"... AND I WON'T TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR VANISHING LADY!"
HERE SHE COMES. WELL DONE, ISIS.
BUT WHY DIDN'T WE JUST ZAP OURSELVES ON TO THE BASE?
WE HAD TO ZAP OURSELVES OUT HERE FROM NEW YORK.
BUT NOW THAT WE'RE HERE I DON'T WANT TO RISK GETTING ACCIDENTALLY PICKED UP BY THE ENTERPRISE
THERE'LL BE TWO PLACES WE NEED TO FIND. THE MAIN COMPUTER ROOM WILL HAVE LOGGED THE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE JET PILOT AND THE GROUND. WE NEED TO GET THOSE TAPES.
SINGLETON A.F.B.
WHAT'S THE OTHER PLACE?
THEY'LL WANT TO PROCESS THE FILM FROM THOSE CAMERAS AS FAST AS THEY CAN.
BUT THERE'S NO INDICATION OF A PHOTO LAB IN THIS BUILDING. IT MUST BE SOMEWHERE ELSE
HOW MANY BUILDINGS ARE THERE ON A BASE LIKE THIS?
MAYBE TWENTY TWENTY-FIVE
THIS COULD TAKE TIME WE DON'T HAVE.
I GUESS WE BETTER HUSTLE, THEN. HOW FAR IS IT TO THIS COMPUTER-
OOO! WAIT!
LISTEN!
THAT'S A MATTER-TRANSPORTER!

ISN'T THAT—?
CAPTAIN KIRK. YES. I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE OTHER MAN. I ONLY SAW HALF A DOZEN OF THE ENTERPRISE CREW WHEN I WAS ABOARD HER.
THEY MUST HAVE DETECTED THE PILOT ACTIVATING THE CAMERAS. THEY'RE HERE TO RETRIEVE THE FILM, TOO!
SO WE CAN GO HOME?
ALL RIGHT. IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING. WE CAN—
HOLD IT!
NOT YET. WE NEED TO BE SURE THEY SUCCEED!
PRIMITIVE COMPUTER. I'VE SEEN THEM DEMONSTRATED IN MUSEUMS.
ME, TOO. IF THIS ONE'S LIKE THOSE, I'LL MAKE THE DEVIL'S OWN NOISE IF YOU START IT!

GET YOUR HANDS UP NOW - ONE AT A TIME. HAND ME THOSE BELTS.
BLAST! WE CAN'T ALLOW KIRK AND HIS CREWMAN TO BE CAPTURED.
HEY ISN'T THAT THEIR TRANSPORTER NOISE AGAIN?
THEY CAN'T BE BEAMING UP WITH SOMEONE WATCHING--?
WHAT THE--?
KIRK AND THE OTHER MAN ARE STILL UH, NO!
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE
SPOCK WERE ARE YOU ALL RIGHT CAPTAIN?
THE GUARD MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY TRIPPED ONE OF THEIR COMMUNICATOR'S EMERGENCY SIGNALS. THE ENTERPRISE WOULD HAVE BEAMED HIM UP IMMEDIATELY
YES, I'M ALL RIGHT BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM.
SO NOW THEY HAVE TWO PEOPLE UP THERE?
ONLY TWO, I HOPE!
LOOK - KIRK IS CONSULTING THAT PIECE OF PAPER. THEY HAVE A MAP!
OF THIS PLACE? HOW DID THEY GET THAT?

THE PILOT! HE MUST HAVE AGREED TO HELP THEM!
BUT WHY? IF THEY HAVE EXPLAINED THEIR DILEMMA, WE MUST KNOW THEY CAN'T BE PLANNING TO RETURN HIM TO EARTH.
SHOULD WE FOLLOW CAPTAIN KIRK AND HIS PAL?
YES. AS LONG AS KIRK HAS A MAP TO FOLLOW, WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT TOO.
ARE YOU SURE THESE GUYS ARE SOME KIND OF MILITARY?
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THEY SURE DO A LOT OF SNEAKING AROUND!
I SUSPECT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THEM AT THEIR BEST ROBERTA.
MP
MP
MP
MILITARY POLICE! D'YOU THINK THEY'VE SEEN THE SPACE GUYS?
NOT YET AND WE SHOULD MAKE SURE THEY DON'T
THIS MAY BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR A BLUFF
MR. SEVEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STAY BACK, ROBERTA.
GOOD EVENING, GENT-EMEN. IS SOMETHING GOING ON?
MP
MP
MP

SOME KIND OF SECURITY FLAP COLONEL. WE HAVE ORDERS TO LOCK DOWN THE WHOLE BASE
SEEMS LIKE SOMEBODY SHOT DOWN ONE OF OUR JETS, SIR.
SHOT IT DOWN?
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD. THERE'S TALK. WELL, SIR, THERE'S TALK OF A UFO!
REALLY?
THEN I BETTER NOT DELAY YOU. CARRY ON, GENTLEMEN.
MP
MP
WAS THAT CLOSE OR AM I JUST TOO NERVOUS?
MAYBE BOTH.
NOW COME ON WE HAVE TO CATCH UP TO KIRK AND HIS CREWMAN.
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO GET IN TROUBLE!!
THAT'S THE PHOTO LAB - BUT THEY'VE BEEN CAUGHT
OR... WAIT A SECOND WHERE'S THE OTHER CREWMAN?
FOLLOW THEM AT A DISCRETE DISTANCE, ROBERTA.
COME BACK AND TELL ME WHERE THEY TAKE KIRK.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

CHECK TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER MAN. I MAY HAVE TO RISK CONTACT.
WELL, AT LEAST THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN HIM FAR.
SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, LIEUTENANT?
THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED TOO, MA'AM. SOUNDS LIKE AN ODD DUCK.
OH—ER, NO, SERGEANT. I WAS JUST COMING TO CHECK ON THE STATUS OF THE PRISONER.
SOMEBODY SAID HE WAS RUNNING AROUND IN HIS PAJAMAS.
HA-HA! THAT WOULD BE FUNNY.
SABOTAGE ESPIONAGE UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY BURGLARY WOW ARE THOSE FOR STARTERS?
I CAN THINK UP LOTS MORE IF YOU DON'T START TALKING
ALL RIGHT COLONEL THE TRUTH IS, I'M A LITTLE GREEN MAN FROM ALPHA CENTAURI A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. YOU OUGHT TO SEE IT
I AM GOING TO LOCK YOU UP FOR 200 YEARS.
THAT OUGHT TO BE JUST ABOUT RIGHT!

THEY'VE GOT HIM JUST A COUPLE OF HALLWAYS OVER, BOY THEY SEEM REALLY MAD, MR SEVEN.
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
NO. NO PHOTOS, NO FILM. AND NO ENTERPRISE CREWMAN
HE MUST HAVE BEAMED UP WHEN THEY CAUGHT KIRK TAKING THE EVIDENCE WITH HIM.
SO THAT'S ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT?
I'M NOT SO SURE STEALING THE EVIDENCE WILL ONLY SERVE TO CONVINCE THE AUTHORITIES SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED.
I HOPE THAT'S NOT THE WHOLE OF THEIR PLAN.
WAIT
OH, THE GUY WITH THE EARS! HE STILL GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

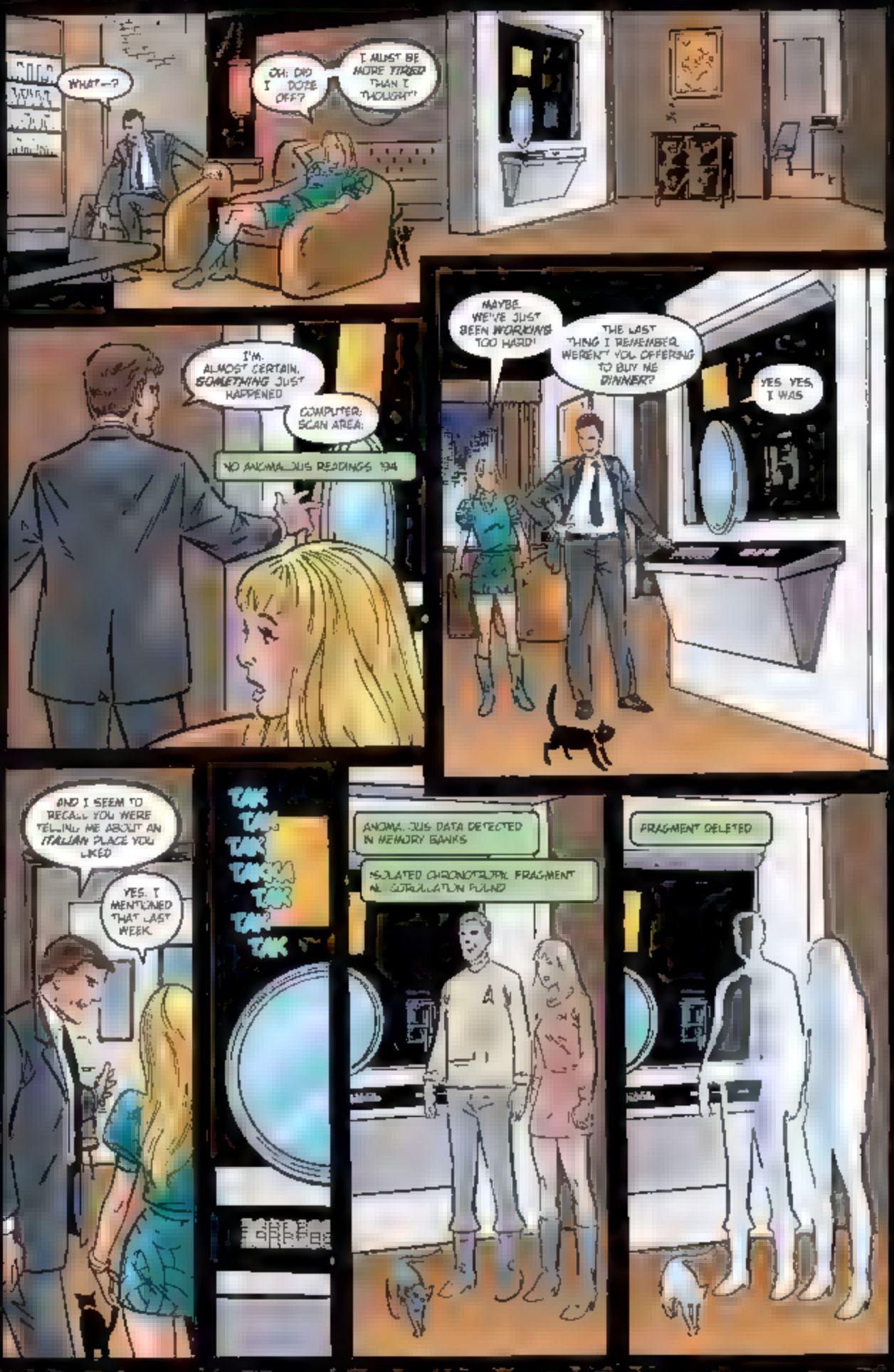
LOOKS LIKE WE MAY BE OKAY TO LEAVE AFTER ALL... NO. WAIT. SOMETHING'S GOING ON
SOUNDS LIKE THE PILOT DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE
I KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE. MY FAMILY. A SON THAT ISN'T BORN YET
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RETURN ME NOW, CAPTAIN.
YOU'LL GO HOME, CHRISTOPHER. BUT YOU'LL DO IT OUR WAY
I SUSPECTED HE MIGHT NOT WISH TO RETURN WITH US.
FOUR TO BEAM UP, MR. SULU!
THEY'RE GONE AGAIN.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO DO.
I HAVE TO BE SURE EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PROPERLY WRAPPED UP
"...BUT THAT MEANS BREAKING EVERY PROTOCOL I WAS EVER TRAINED TO FOLLOW!"
OH-HHHH—

WELL THAT EVER GET ANY EASIER?
OH, ARE WE WHERE I THINK--
IF YOU THINK WE'RE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE, YES.
TRY TO BE UNOBTRUSIVE ISIS!
HEY! OUR CLOTHES HAVE CHANGED AGAIN. IT FREAKS ME OUT WHEN SHE DOES THAT!
I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO PERSONIFY THE BETA FIVE ROBERTA, DESPITE ITS FEMALE SOUNDING VOICE
AT LEAST MINISKIRTS WILL STILL BE POPULAR IN THE FUTURE!
BUT SHOULD I BE HERE? IF THAT JET PILOT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO SEE STUFF FROM THE FUTURE
I MAY HAVE NEED OF AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS.
TRY NOT TO PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION!
SCAN. WHERE ARE THE PRESENT-DAY HUMANS?
DETECTED ON DIFFERENT DECK LEVELS. ATTEMPTING TO REFINE--
COMPUTER? BETA FIVE RESPOND.
OH-HHH. WHY IS MY STOMACH DOING FLIP-FLOPS AGAIN?

I KNOW THAT FEELING AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!
COME ON. WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME
MR. SEVEN! MR. SEVEN, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IT'S CALLED THE LIGHT SPEED BREAKAWAY FACTOR
THE ALIEN RACE THAT TRAINED ME AND SENT ME TO EARTH KNOWS IT WELL, ALTHOUGH THEY DON'T USE IT EXCEPT IN EXTREME EMERGENCIES.
I SUPPOSE THIS SITUATION MIGHT JUST QUALIFY
THE LIGHT SPEED WHO WHAT?
TIME TRAVEL, ROBERTA. THE ENTERPRISE IS USING ITS ANTIMATTER DRIVE TO OPEN A TIME WARP
WE'RE MOVING BACKWARDS THROUGH TIME
BACKWARDS? SHOULDN'T THEY BE GOING FORWARD?
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S BACKWARD?
LOOK AT THAT CHRONOMETER
02 54 37
02 54 33
02 54 20
02 54 15

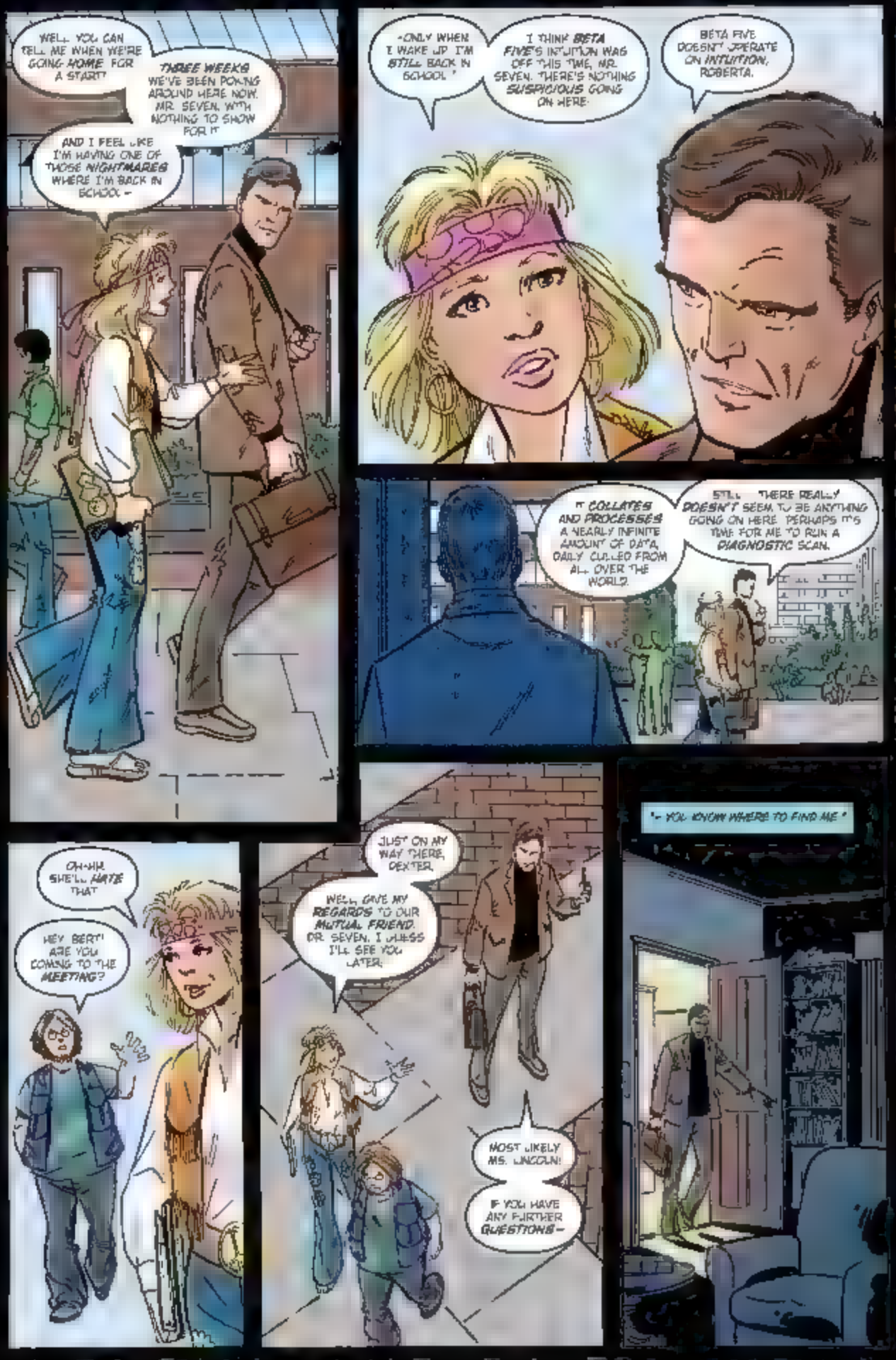
HEY! ISN'T THAT THE JET PILOT GUY?
WHAT'S HE ALL DRESSED UP FOR?
THAT'S ONE OF THE MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOMS!
THE LAST TIME THE ENTERPRISE WAS IN ORBIT BETA 5 DID A COMPREHENSIVE SCAN, AND I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE LAYOUT IN MY SPARE TIME, FOR AMUSEMENT
THIS EXPLAINS WHY WE'RE GOING BACKWARDS IN TIME. IF CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER IS BACK IN HIS FLIGHT SUIT AND IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM—
—THEY MUST BE PLANNING TO BEAM HIM BACK INTO HIS JET BEFORE IT WAS CRUSHED!
BUT ARE THEY MAKING THE NECESSARY COMPENSATION FOR MASS—?
ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THEIR EQUIPMENT?
DO YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO DO THAT?
YES, I DO
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M DOING. THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS. I'M JUST SCANNING TO BE CERTAIN.
"—BUT THERE'S ONE THING THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY COMPENSATE FOR—"
BWEE-WOOOOO PWOW
HEY! WHO TURNED ON THE TELEPORTER THING?

WE HAVE TO MOVE FAST NOW!
WHAT IN BLAZES—?
SORRY! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.
TONG!
OH, MR. SEVEN! HE'S GOT ONE OF THOSE—
NOW, THE TWO OF YOU COME AND SIT DOWN OVER HERE
IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT, WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER, YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT!
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, MR. SEVEN?
IF THIS WORKS, ROBERTA, NOTHING!
COMPUTER: EMERGENCY PROTOCOL 77 389. THROW A LIGHT WARPING FIELD AROUND THE STARSHIP FROM THE FUTURE!
DONE
US AIR FORCE
BLUEJAY FOUR, COME IN! WE'VE LOST THE WAVE.
BLACKJACK, THIS IS BLUEJAY FOUR.
I COULD HAVE SWORN THERE WAS SOME KIND OF SHIP BUT...
MARK IT DOWN AS ANOTHER UFO! BLUE JAY FOUR RETURNING TO BASE

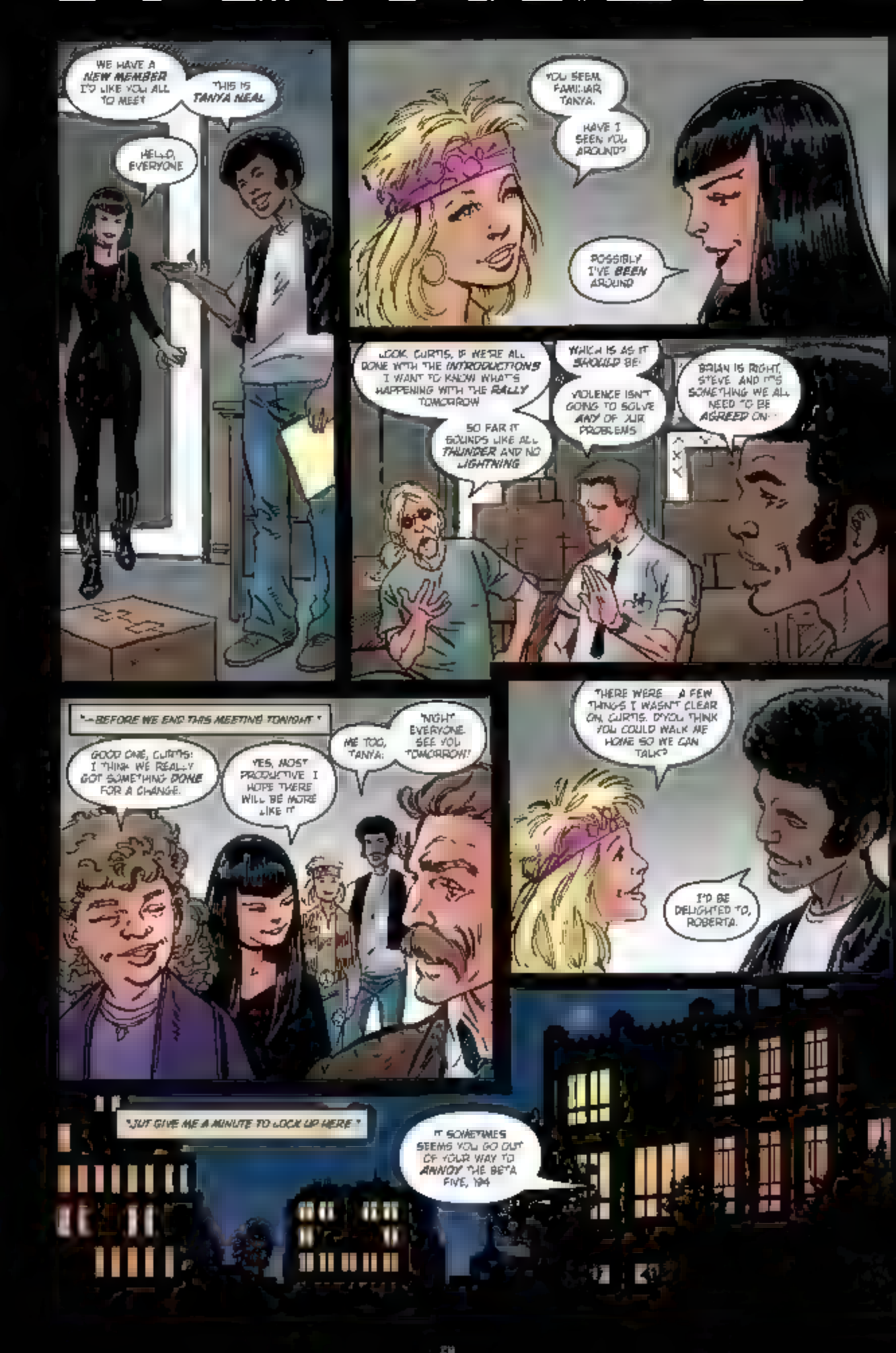

WHAT—?
OH. DID I DOZE OFF?
I MUST BE MORE TIRED THAN I THOUGHT!
I'M ALMOST CERTAIN SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED
COMPUTER: SCAN AREA:
NO ANOMALOUS READINGS 194
MAYBE WE'VE JUST BEEN WORKING TOO HARD!
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WEREN'T YOU OFFERING TO BUY ME DINNER?
YES YES, I WAS
AND I SEEM TO RECALL YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT AN ITALIAN PLACE YOU LIKED
YES. I MENTIONED THAT LAST WEEK.
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK
ANOMALOUS DATA DETECTED IN MEMORY BANKS
ISOLATED CHRONITON FRAGMENT AT CIRCULATION FOUND
FRAGMENT DELETED

CHAPTER
THREE

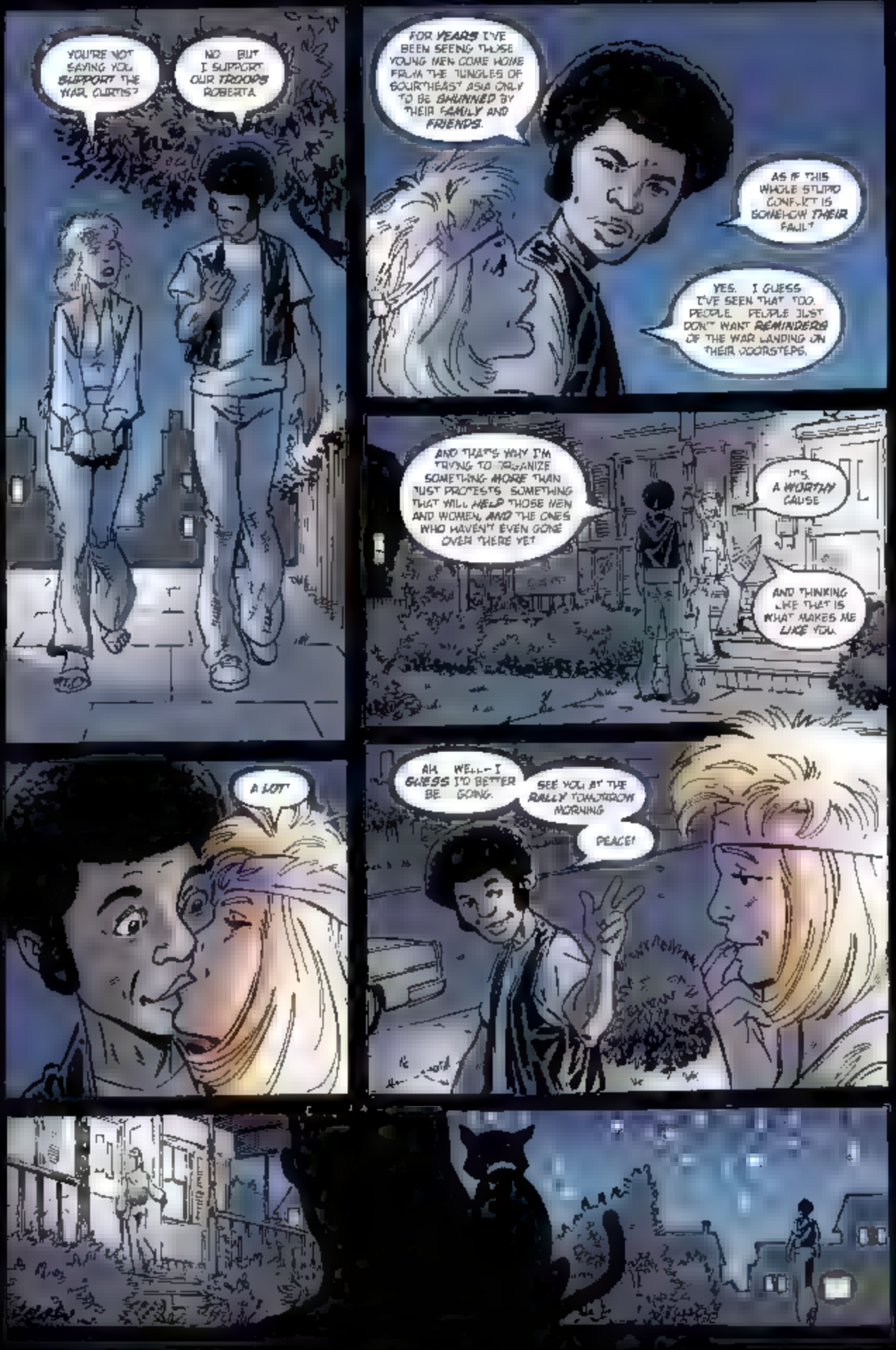
MY NAME IS LEGION
THE CAMPUS OF ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DR. SEVEN!
DR. SEVEN!
YES, MS. LINCOLN? IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?


WELL, YOU CAN TELL ME WHEN WE'RE GOING HOME FOR A START!
THREE WEEKS WE'VE BEEN POKING AROUND HERE NOW, MR. SEVEN, WITH NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT
AND I FEEL LIKE I'M HAVING ONE OF THOSE NIGHTMARES WHERE I'M BACK IN SCHOOL –
-ONLY WHEN I WAKE UP I'M STILL BACK IN SCHOOL!
I THINK BETA FIVE'S INTUITION WAS OFF THIS TIME, MR. SEVEN. THERE'S NOTHING SUSPICIOUS GOING ON HERE.
BETA FIVE DOESN'T OPERATE ON INTUITION, ROBERTA.
IT COLLATES AND PROCESSES A NEARLY INFINITE AMOUNT OF DATA, DAILY CULLED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
STILL... THERE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING GOING ON HERE. PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO RUN A DIAGNOSTIC SCAN.
OH-HH, SHE'LL HATE THAT
HEY BERT! ARE YOU COMING TO THE MEETING?
JUST ON MY WAY THERE, DEXTER.
WELL, GIVE MY REGARDS TO OUR MUTUAL FRIEND. DR. SEVEN. I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
MOST LIKELY MS. LINCOLN!
IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS –
"– YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME."

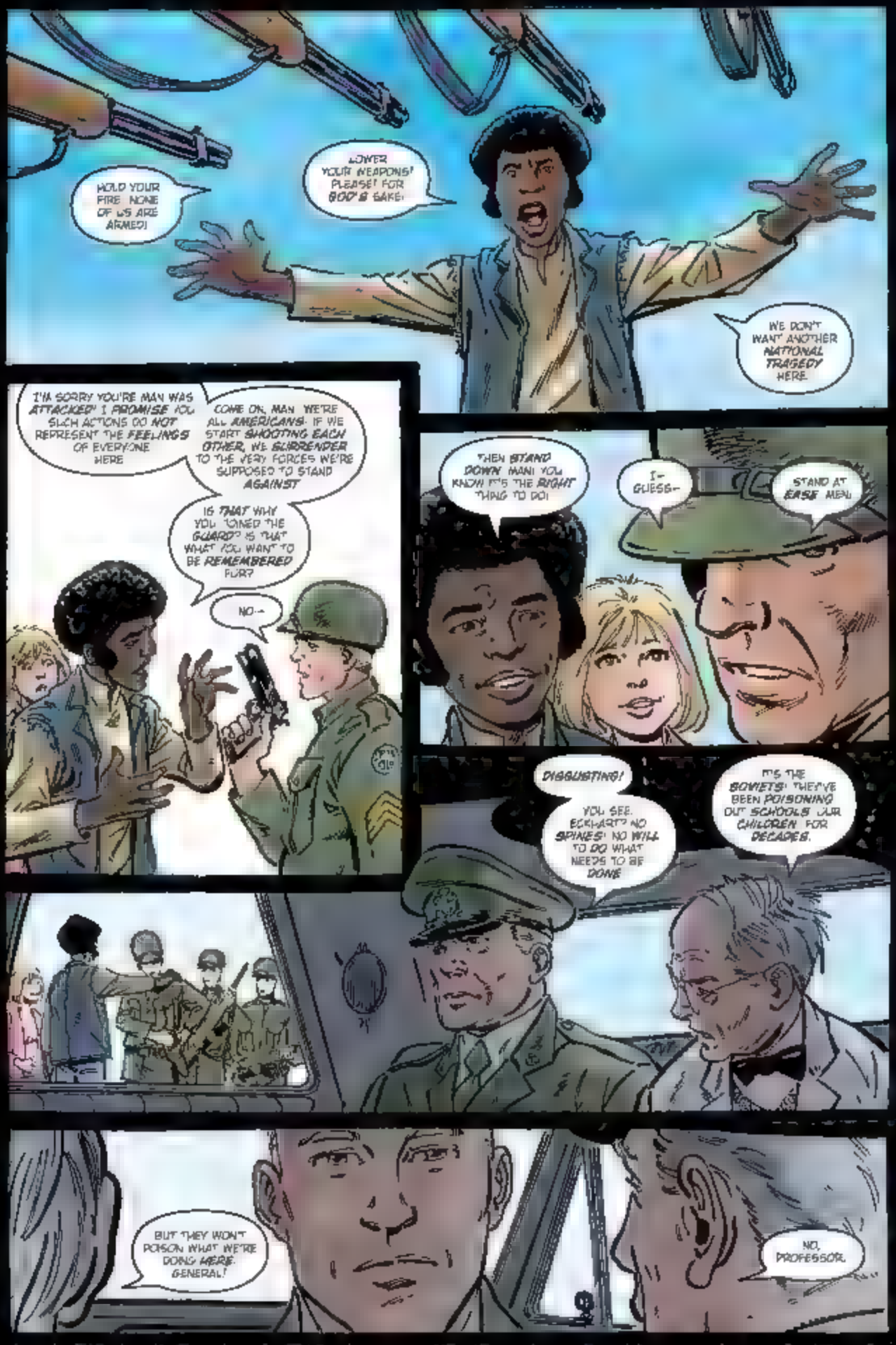
COMPUTER ON!
COMPUTER ON.
COMPUTER, BEGIN DIAGNOSTIC SCAN 373-7147
DIAGNOSTIC SCAN WILL TAKE 68.4 HOURS, LOCAL TIME SUPERVISOR 194. OCCUPYING ALL CIRCUITS.
SPECIFY REASONS FOR SCAN
I HAVE MY REASONS.
"COMMENCE SCAN!"
HI, EVERYBODY! SORRY WE'RE LATE MY FAULT!
AS LONG AS YOU GOT HERE THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS, ROBERTA!
NOW, BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO THE MAIN BUSINESS-

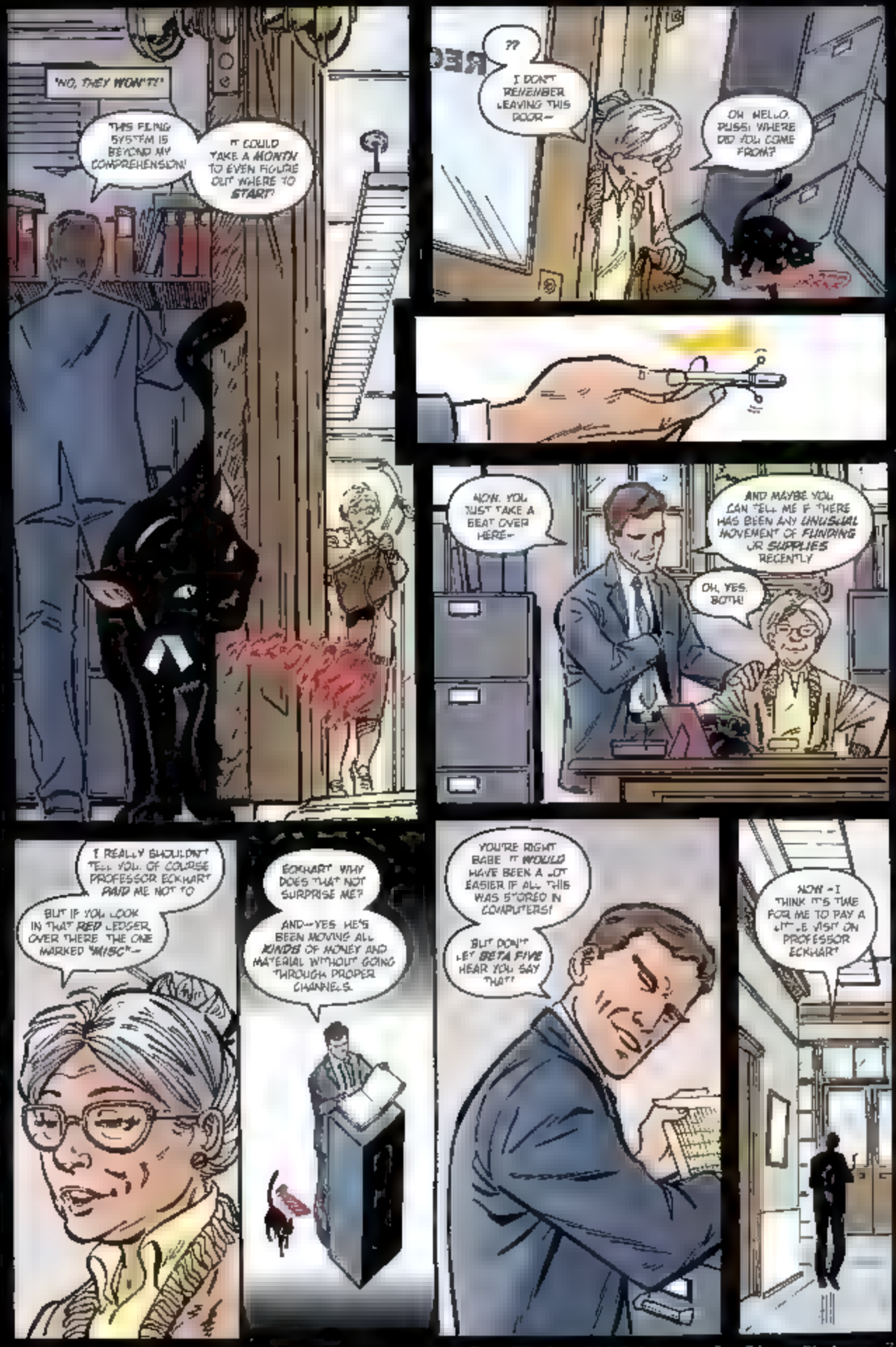

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO MEET
THIS IS TANYA NEAL
HELLO, EVERYONE
YOU SEEM FAMILIAR, TANYA.
HAVE I SEEN YOU AROUND?
POSSIBLY I'VE BEEN AROUND
LOOK, CURTIS, IF WE'RE ALL DONE WITH THE INTRODUCTIONS I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE RALLY TOMORROW
SO FAR IT SOUNDS LIKE ALL THUNDER AND NO LIGHTNING
WHICH IS AS IT SHOULD BE!
VIOLENCE ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE ANY OF OUR PROBLEMS
BRIAN IS RIGHT, STEVE. AND IT'S SOMETHING WE ALL NEED TO BE AGREED ON.
"--BEFORE WE END THIS MEETING TONIGHT"
GOOD ONE, CURTIS! I THINK WE REALLY GOT SOMETHING DONE FOR A CHANGE.
YES, MOST PRODUCTIVE. I HOPE THERE WILL BE MORE LIKE IT
ME TOO, TANYA.
'NIGHT EVERYONE. SEE YOU TOMORROW!
THERE WERE... A FEW THINGS I WASN'T CLEAR ON, CURTIS. D'YOU THINK YOU COULD WALK ME HOME SO WE CAN TALK?
I'D BE DELIGHTED TO, ROBERTA.
"JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE TO LOCK UP HERE."
IT SOMETIMES SEEMS YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO ANNOY THE BETA FIVE, 194

NOT REALLY. ISIS IT DOES A BETTER JOB OF ANNOYING ME!
STILL, WE ARE LEFT WITH A MYSTERY LURKING SOMEWHERE IN THESE HALLS OF ACADEMIA.
NOT TO WORRY
LIKE YOU, I HAVE NO FONDNESS FOR THE BETA FIVES AND THEIR SNOBBERY IT DOES IT GOOD TO SHAKE OUT THE COBWEBS FROM TIME TO TIME
WHO'S TALKING OUT HERE?
THIS BUILDING IS CLOSED TO ALL BUT STAFF AFTER DARK!
OH, IT'S YOU DR SEVEN WORKING LATE?
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, PROFESSOR ECKHART MY CAT WAS FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER TODAY SO I BROUGHT HER IN TO WORK WITH ME
UNFORTUNATELY SHE GOT LOOSE—
AND I'VE ONLY JUST BEEN ABLE TO TRACK HER DOWN!
YOUR CAT—?
—YES, EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE FINE
OH, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE MET DR. SEVEN. HE JOINED OUR FACULTY THREE WEEKS AGO
BIT LATE IN THE YEAR TO BE CHANGING SCHOOLS, ISN'T IT, DOCTOR?
NO, WE'RE JUST OLD FRIENDS. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US—
THAT'S THE ONE ALL TOLD ME ABOUT, ECKHART?
YES I'VE HAD THE OF THE UNITS KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM
EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT OUT THERE, PROFESSOR?
GENERAL CORY—
NOT ENTIRELY MY CHOICE GENERAL
ARE YOU AND PROFESSOR ECKHART WORKING ON SOMETHING TOGETHER?

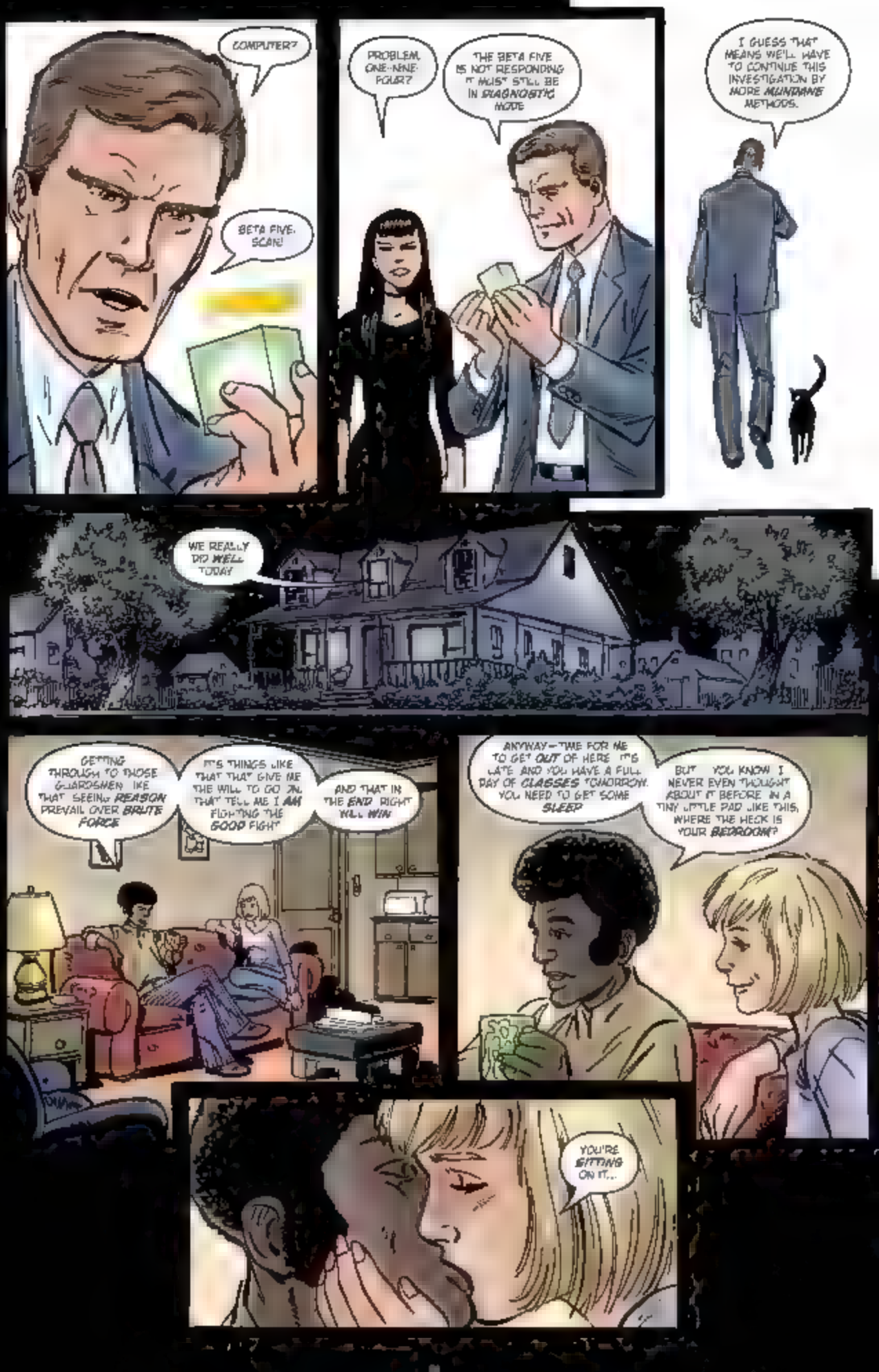

YOU'RE NOT SAYING YOU SUPPORT THE WAR, CURTIS?
NO. BUT I SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ROBERTA
FOR YEARS I'VE BEEN SEEING THOSE YOUNG MEN COME HOME FROM THE JUNGLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA ONLY TO BE SHUNNED BY THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
AS IF THIS WHOLE STUPID CONFLICT IS SOMEHOW THEIR FAULT
YES. I GUESS I'VE SEEN THAT TOO. PEOPLE. PEOPLE JUST DON'T WANT REMINDERS OF THE WAR LANDING ON THEIR DOORSTEPS.
AND THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO ORGANIZE SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST PROTESTS. SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP THOSE MEN AND WOMEN, AND THE ONES WHO HAVEN'T EVEN GONE OVER THERE YET
IT'S A WORTHY CAUSE
AND THINKING LIKE THAT IS WHAT MAKES ME LIKE YOU.
A LOT
AH. WELL- I GUESS I'D BETTER BE GOING.
SEE YOU AT THE RALLY TOMORROW MORNING
PEACE!

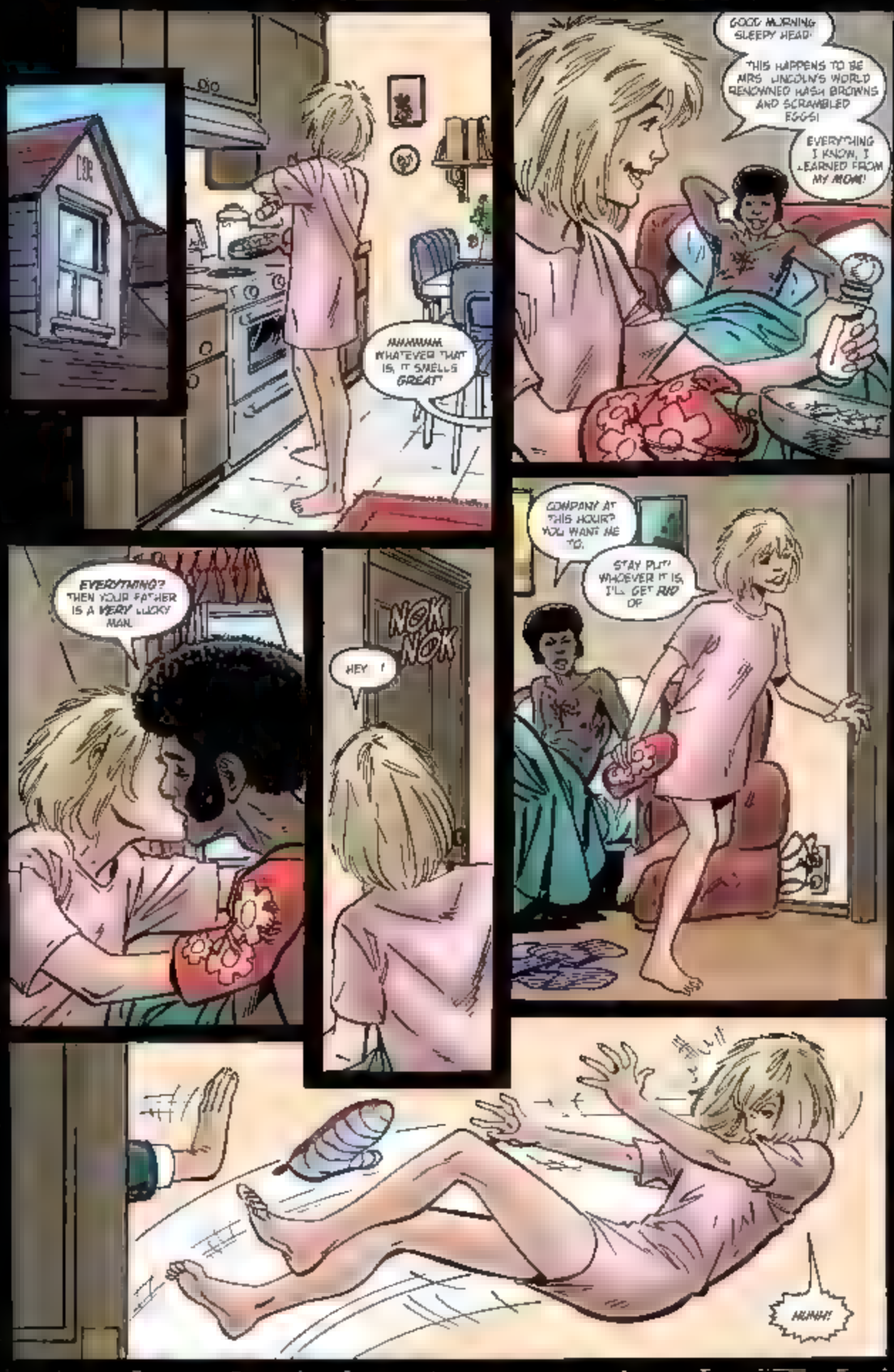
WE WON'T GO
OH-IB-UHH—
I HOPE NO ONE DOES ANYTHING STUPID WITH ALL THESE GUNS AROUND.
I'M SURE THEY WON'T
THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN EXTRA CAREFUL SINCE KENT STATE
PEACE AND LOVE SOLDIER MAN!
P-PLEASE DON'T DO THAT, MISS.
WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LET ANYONE TOUCH OUR RIFLES—
DON'T TELL US WHAT WE CAN DO YOU MOTHER
SKRASH
OKAY THAT'S IT!
FIRE AT WILL
WAIT!


HOLD YOUR FIRE. NONE OF US ARE ARMED!
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS! PLEASE! FOR GOD'S SAKE!
WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER NATIONAL TRAGEDY HERE.
I'M SORRY YOU'RE MAN WAS ATTACKED! I PROMISE YOU SUCH ACTIONS DO NOT REPRESENT THE FEELINGS OF EVERYONE HERE
COME ON, MAN. WE'RE ALL AMERICANS. IF WE START SHOOTING EACH OTHER, WE SURRENDER TO THE VERY FORCES WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAND AGAINST
IS THAT WHY YOU JOINED THE GUARD? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR?
NO--
THEN STAND DOWN, MAN! YOU KNOW IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!
I--GUESS--
STAND AT EASE, MEN.
DISGUSTING!
YOU SEE, ECKHART? NO SPINES! NO WILL TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE
IT'S THE SOVIETS! THEY'VE BEEN POISONING OUR SCHOOLS, OUR CHILDREN, FOR DECADES.
BUT THEY WON'T POISON WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, GENERAL!
NO, PROFESSOR.


"NO, THEY WON'T!"
THIS FILING SYSTEM IS BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION!
IT COULD TAKE A MONTH TO EVEN FIGURE OUT WHERE TO START!
??
I DON'T REMEMBER LEAVING THIS DOOR—
OH HELLO, PUSS! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
NOW, YOU JUST TAKE A SEAT OVER HERE—
AND MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY UNUSUAL MOVEMENT OF FUNDING OR SUPPLIES RECENTLY
OH, YES. BOTH!
I REALLY SHOULDN'T TELL YOU. OF COURSE PROFESSOR ECKHART PAID ME NOT TO
BUT IF YOU LOOK IN THAT RED LEDGER OVER THERE THE ONE MARKED "MISC"—
ECKHART WHY DOES THAT NOT SURPRISE ME?
AND—YES HE'S BEEN MOVING ALL KINDS OF MONEY AND MATERIAL WITHOUT GOING THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS.
YOU'RE RIGHT BABE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT EASIER IF ALL THIS WAS STORED IN COMPUTERS!
BUT DON'T LET BETA FIVE HEAR YOU SAY THAT!
NOW - I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO PAY A LITTLE VISIT ON PROFESSOR ECKHART

PROFESSOR, I WONDER IF I MIGHT HAVE A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME BEFORE YOUR NEXT CLASS?
A VERY FEW MINUTES, DR. SEVEN.
THIS IS, IN FACT MY LAST CLASS OF THE DAY AND I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING TO ATTEND
THEN I WON'T KEEP YOU LONG.
I JUST HAPPENED TO NOTICE YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR ACQUIRING FUNDING FOR YOUR VARIOUS PROJECTS--
TALENT? FUNDING? WHAT THE DEVIL HAVE YOU BEEN SNOOPING INTO, SEVEN?
NOTHING TO BE UPSET ABOUT PROFESSOR.
I KNOW VERY WELL HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE TO SQUEEZE A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY PURSE--
--AND SINCE YOU SEEM TO HAVE LESS TROUBLE THAN THE REST OF US--
YOU KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF MY BUSINESS, SEVEN.
WHAT I'M WORKING ON IS SENSITIVE I DON'T WANT IT NOISED ALL OVER THE CAMPUS WHERE THE DAMNED SOVIETS CAN--
PROFESSOR, IT'S TIME TO LEAVE FOR YOUR MEETING
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION AT A MORE CONVENIENT TIME, THEN, PROFESSOR--
WE'LL CONTINUE NOTHING!
MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS!
SCAN--

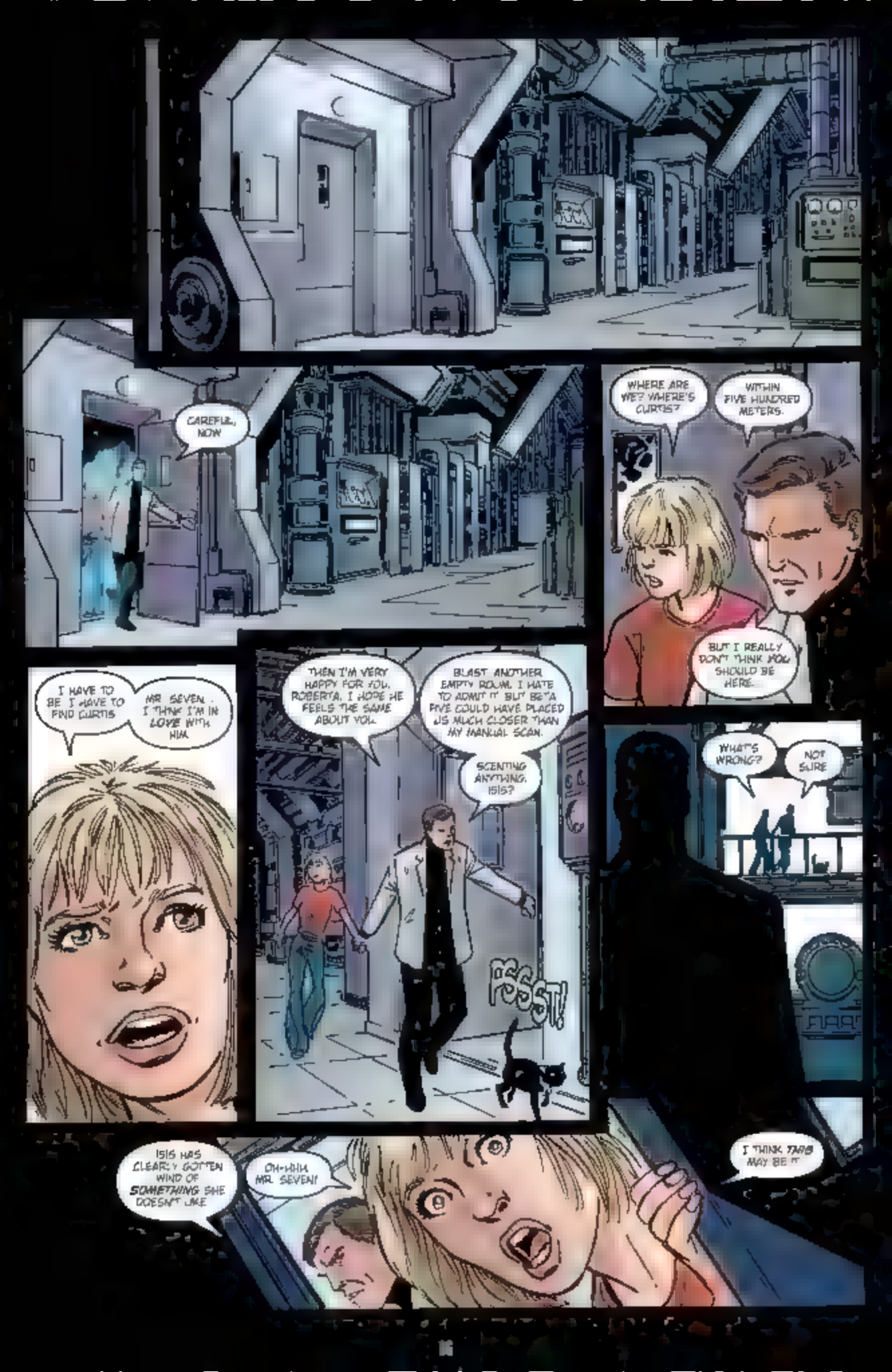

COMPUTER?
BETA FIVE. SCAN!
PROBLEM, ONE-NINE-FOUR?
THE BETA FIVE IS NOT RESPONDING IT MUST STILL BE IN DIAGNOSTIC MODE
I GUESS THAT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS INVESTIGATION BY MORE MUNDANE METHODS.
WE REALLY DID WELL TODAY
GETTING THROUGH TO THOSE GUARDSMEN LIKE THAT SEEING REASON PREVAIL OVER BRUTE FORCE
IT'S THINGS LIKE THAT THAT GIVE ME THE WILL TO GO IN. THAT TELL ME I AM FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT
AND THAT IN THE END RIGHT WILL WIN
ANYWAY—TIME FOR ME TO GET OUT OF HERE IT'S LATE AND YOU HAVE A FULL DAY OF CLASSES TOMORROW. YOU NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP
BUT YOU KNOW I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE IN A TINY LITTLE PAD LIKE THIS, WHERE THE HECK IS YOUR BEDROOM?
YOU'RE SITTING ON IT...

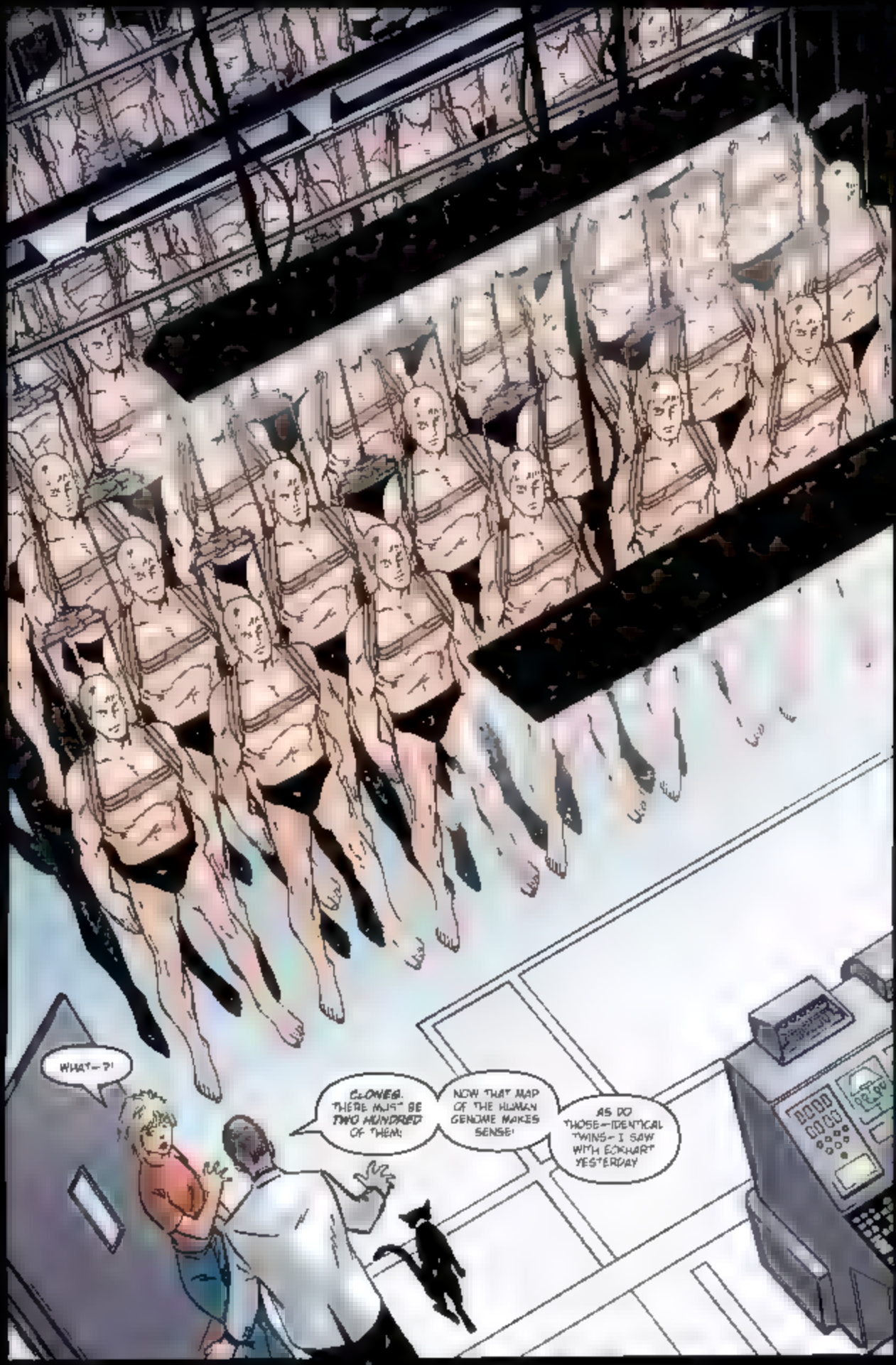

MMMMMM WHATEVER THAT IS, IT SMELLS GREAT!
GOOD MORNING SLEEPY HEAD!
THIS HAPPENS TO BE MRS. LINCOLN'S WORLD RENOWNED HASH BROWNS AND SCRAMBLED EGGS!
EVERYTHING I KNOW, I LEARNED FROM MY MOM!
COMPANY AT THIS HOUR? YOU WANT ME TO...
STAY PUT! WHOEVER IT IS, I'LL GET RID OF
EVERYTHING? THEN YOUR FATHER IS A VERY LUCKY MAN.
NOK NOK
HEY !
HUHH!!

WHAT THE—?!
PLEASE GATHER YOUR BELONGINGS, SIR. YOU ARE TO COME WITH US.
I DON'T THINK SO!
RESISTANCE
NEUTRALIZE
ENOUGH.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL US THE EXTENT OF HIS FELLOW TRAVELERS' ACTIVITIES IF YOU KILL HIM.
GET HIM DOWN TO THE CAR.
YES, GENERAL.
AND THE GIRL?
LEAVE HER

"SHE'S JUST HIS CONFUSED LITTLE PLAYTHING"
108 West
Professor
Eugene Eck
PRIVATE
ECKHART USUALLY DOESN'T GET IN BEFORE 8:30
BUT KEEP AN EYE OUT JUST IN CASE
LOCKED DRAWER. GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO START
A DETAILED MAP OF THE HUMAN GENOME!
BUT THAT'S DECADES BEYOND CURRENT EARTH SCIENCE
BLAST! ECKHART COMES IN EARLY
JUST WHEN I'VE FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING!
SIR, DID YOU LEAVE YOUR OFFICE UNLOCKED?
I MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT!
LOOK THE CLOSET DOOR.
THERE IS NO WAY OUT OF THERE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NO ONE THERE?!
I SAW THAT DOOR CLOSE.
PERHAPS IT WAS A TRICK OF THE LIGHT SIR. THE MORNING SUN WAS IN YOUR EYES
AS I SAID THERE IS NO WAY ANYONE COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THIS CLOSET
NO WAY KNOWN TO PRESENT-DAY EARTH SCIENCE ANYWAY
BUT THERE'S THAT PROBLEM AGAIN.
FOR THE SECOND TIME SINCE I ARRIVED ON EARTH, I'VE ENCOUNTERED A LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BEYOND ANYTHING MODERN DAY SCIENTISTS WOULD HAVE.
MR. SEVEN!
OH--WH, MR. SEVEN.
ROBERTA!
THANK GOD YOU WERE HERE! I CAME TO, AND CURTIS WAS GONE
IF WE WENT AFTER THEM, OR THEY TOOK HIM.
EITHER WAY, WE COULD BE IN BIG TROUBLE.
SLOW DOWN, ROBERTA.
WHO'S THIS CURTIS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
MRR-OWRRR
I... SEE
WE'D BETTER FIND HIM, THEN!


CAREFUL, NOW
WHERE ARE WE? WHERE'S CURTIS?
WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED METERS.
BUT I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE HERE.
I HAVE TO BE I HAVE TO FIND CURTIS
MR SEVEN. I THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM.
THEN I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU, ROBERTA. I HOPE HE FEELS THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
BLAST ANOTHER EMPTY ROOM. I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT BETA FIVE COULD HAVE PLACED US MUCH CLOSER THAN MY MANUAL SCAN.
SCENTING ANYTHING, ISIS?
PSST!
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOT SURE
I THINK THIS MAY BE IT
ISIS HAS CLEARLY GOTTEN WIND OF SOMETHING SHE DOESN'T LIKE
OH-HHH, MR SEVEN!


WHAT—?!
CLONES. THERE MUST BE TWO HUNDRED OF THEM!
NOW THAT MAP OF THE HUMAN GENOME MAKES SENSE!
AS DO THOSE—IDENTICAL TWINS—I SAW WITH ECKHART YESTERDAY

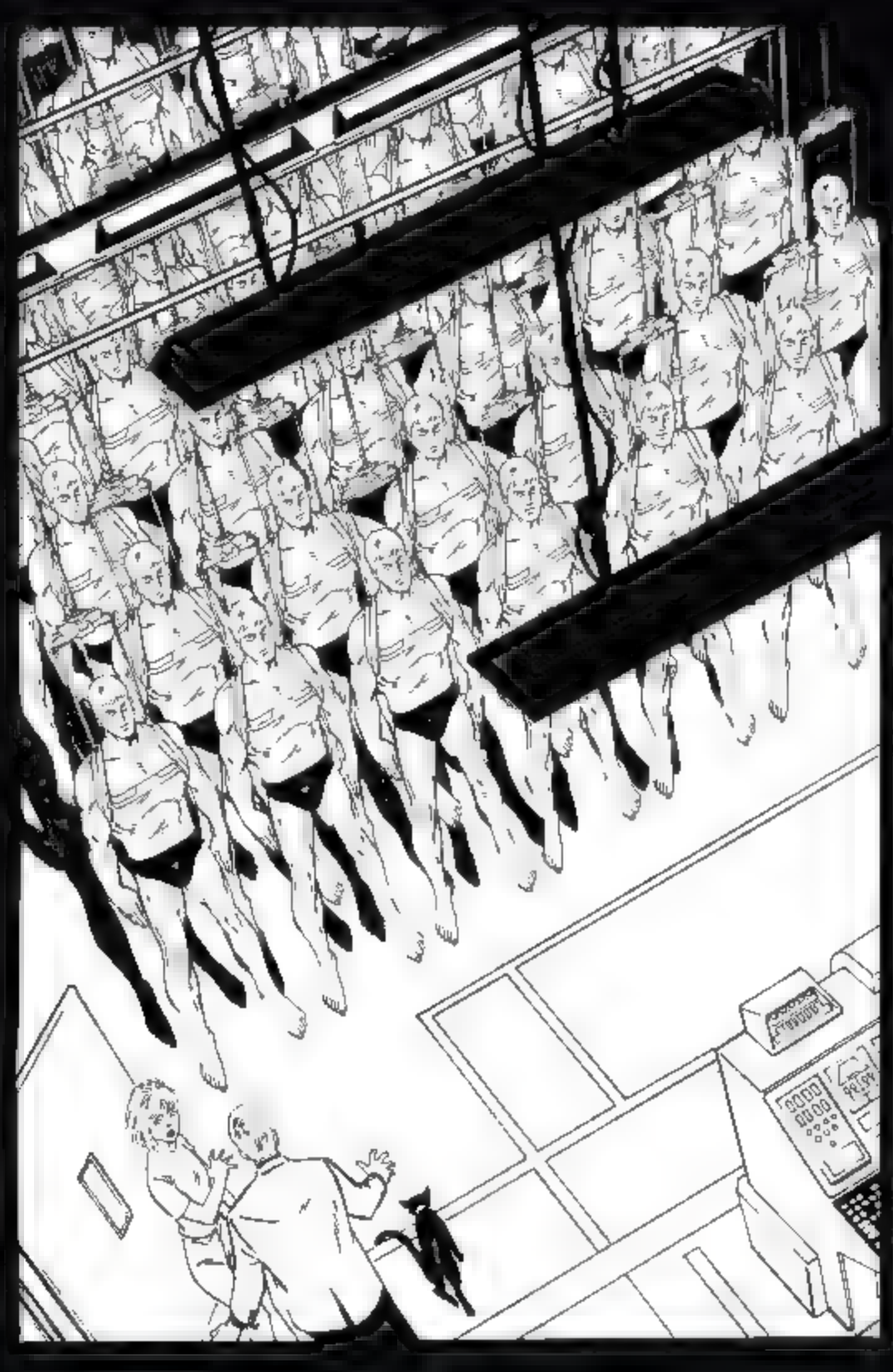
CLONES? YOU MEAN, ALL OF THESE
ARE COPIES OF THE SAME GUY?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
CLONING IS COMMON ON MOST OF THE MORE ADVANCED WORLDS OF THE GALAXY
BUT EARTH IS STILL TOO SOCIALLY PRIMITIVE TO DEAL WITH THE PHILOSOPHICAL IMPLICATIONS. TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER
YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM? EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE BORN ON ANOTHER
UNGH!
MR. SEVEN!
OH- HIHIH. MR. SEVEN!
LET GO OF HIM, YOU FREAK!
OW!
ROBERTA

CURTIS! YOU'RE OKAY
WELL ALIVE ANYWAY OKAY NOT SO SURE
GENERAL CORY — I'M NOT AT ALL SURPRISED TO FIND YOU INVOLVED IN THIS.
AS I AM NOT SURPRISED TO FIND YOU AND YOUR COMMUNIST FRIENDS TRYING TO SABOTAGE THIS PROJECT DOCTOR SEVEN.
DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE TO TELL US WHAT THAT "PROJECT" MIGHT BE, PROFESSOR?
"AN INEXHAUSTIBLE ARMY OF PERFECT PHYSICAL SPECIMENS.
"AN ARMY WITHOUT FEAR. AN ARMY THAT DOES NOT TIRE. AN ARMY WITHOUT MORAL RESERVATIONS.
"AN ARMY THAT WILL SWEEP ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA AND DRIVE THE ENEMY INTO OBLIVION."
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS SEVEN? LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE CREATED!
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY TURN ON YOU, GENERAL?
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WAS EARTH HISTORY TAUGHT YOU NOTHING, PROFESSOR?
"HOW LONG BEFORE THESE PERFECT SPECIMENS OF YOURS SEE IMPERFECT MANKIND AS THE REAL ENEMY?
"HOW LONG BEFORE THEY ROUND US UP AND EXTERMINATE US?
NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN, SEVEN.
AND EVEN IF IT DID.

YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO.
WHAT HA--?
APPARENTLY BETA FIVE HAS COMPLETED ITS DIAGNOSTIC SCAN!
DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID THAT, DOC.
BUT WE'RE STILL OUTNUMBERED ABOUT A HUNDRED TO ONE.
IT WOULD SEEM NOT!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
NOTHING YOU'LL BE WORRYING ABOUT FOR LONG, PROFESSOR!

AND TRANSPORTED THEM ALL TO AN EARTH-LIKE PLANET IN THE VEGA SYSTEM.
AND WITHOUT ANY GIRLS IN THE GROUP, THEY'LL ALL BE GONE IN LESS THAN A GENERATION!
NICELY DONE, BETA FIVE!
THANK YOU, ROBERTA.
IT IS MOST FORTUNATE I COMPLETED MY UNNECESSARY SCAN ISN'T IT?
THAT WILL BE ALL. COMPUTER OFF!
AND NOW, GUESS YOU'LL WANT TO USE THAT GADGET OF YOURS TO ERASE MY MEMORY ..IKE YOU DID WITH COREY AND ECKHART ?
WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO THAT MR. WELL-BORN?
MR. SEVEN! YOU MEAN IT?
OF COURSE! THERE'S NO NEED FOR ANY MEMORY ADJUSTMENT
CURTIS HAS MORE THAN PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE TRUSTWORTHY!
THANKS, MR. SEVEN.
THREE MONTHS LATER.
BUT BUT COULDN'T YOU GO TO CANADA OR SOMETHING?
I KNEW THIS WAS COMING AND MEETING YOU AND MR. SEVEN HAS SHOWN ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO
SHOWN ME THAT ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IF HE'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME
THERE'RE MEN OVER THERE WHOSE LIVES MIGHT WELL DEPEND ON ME BEING IN THAT PLACE, AT THAT TIME.
I GUESS.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU. I PROMISE!

EPILOGUE
DID ALL THESE PEOPLE DIE AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUR FRIEND, GRANNAA?
IN THE SAME HOUR CHLOE. BUT NOT AT THE SAME TIME
HE DIED ON CHRISTMAS DAY 1870 THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO TOMORROW
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANG AROUND WITH ME. GO FIND YOUR MOM.
I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU AT THE SMITHSONIAN.
HELLO, ROBERTA.
HELLO, ISIS.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D MAKE IT THIS YEAR
SORRY I'M LATE. THE CROSS-TOWN TRAFFIC WAS PARTICULARLY HEAVY
BUT I MADE IT.
GLAD YOU DID. ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE YOU - EVEN THOUGH I FEEL A HUNDRED YEARS OLDER EVERY TIME I SEE HOW YOUNG YOU STILL LOOK.
CAN YOU STAY FOR A WHILE, THIS TIME? I'D LOVE FOR YOU TO MEET MY GRANDDAUGHTER
YES THAT WOULD BE DELIGHTFUL



CHAPTER
FOUR

OKAY NOT BAD
IF I WAS SPENDING AN EVENING IN THE JUNGLE!
TOO MUCH MATERIAL!
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE AWAY THE FARM
BUT I DON'T WANT TO PUT UP NO TRESPASSING SIGNS, EITHER
MUCH BETTER: NICE AND LIGHT AND I CAN MOVE IN IT
BUT HOW ABOUT EVEN LESS CLOTH?
HEY! NOT THAT MUCH LESS!
I AM GOING OUT IN PUBLIC, YOU KNOW!
EH, SURE
IF I WANT HIM TO THINK I'M PREGNANT
THERE YOU GO!
JUST RIGHT FOR A SUMMER EVENING ON THE TOWN!
ROBERTA!

OH, MR. SEVEN! I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE

WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?

ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AGO.

AND I CAN'T *BELIEVE* WHAT I'VE BEEN *SEEING*

HAVE YOU *REALLY* BEEN USING A *TELEPORTATION DEVICE* CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING MATTER FROM *ONE SIDE* OF THE GALAXY TO THE *OTHER*.

AS A *DRESS MAKER*?!

WELL, SEE, I HAVE THIS *BIG DATE* THIS WEEKEND, AND I *REALLY* HAVE *NOTHING* TO WEAR. .

AND *BETTY* WAS OKAY WITH IT .

BETTY?!

BETA FIVE I MEAN, I KNOW YOU *SAID* I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO *PERSONALIZE* HER. I MEAN *IT*

BETA FIVE! ROBERTA I CAN UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU WENT ALONG WITH THIS?

DID YOU EVEN *THINK* ABOUT THE *POWER-UTILIZATION CURVES*--?

THERE IS NOTHING I DO NOT THINK ABOUT, SUPERVISOR 124.

AND HERE! YOU, TOO!

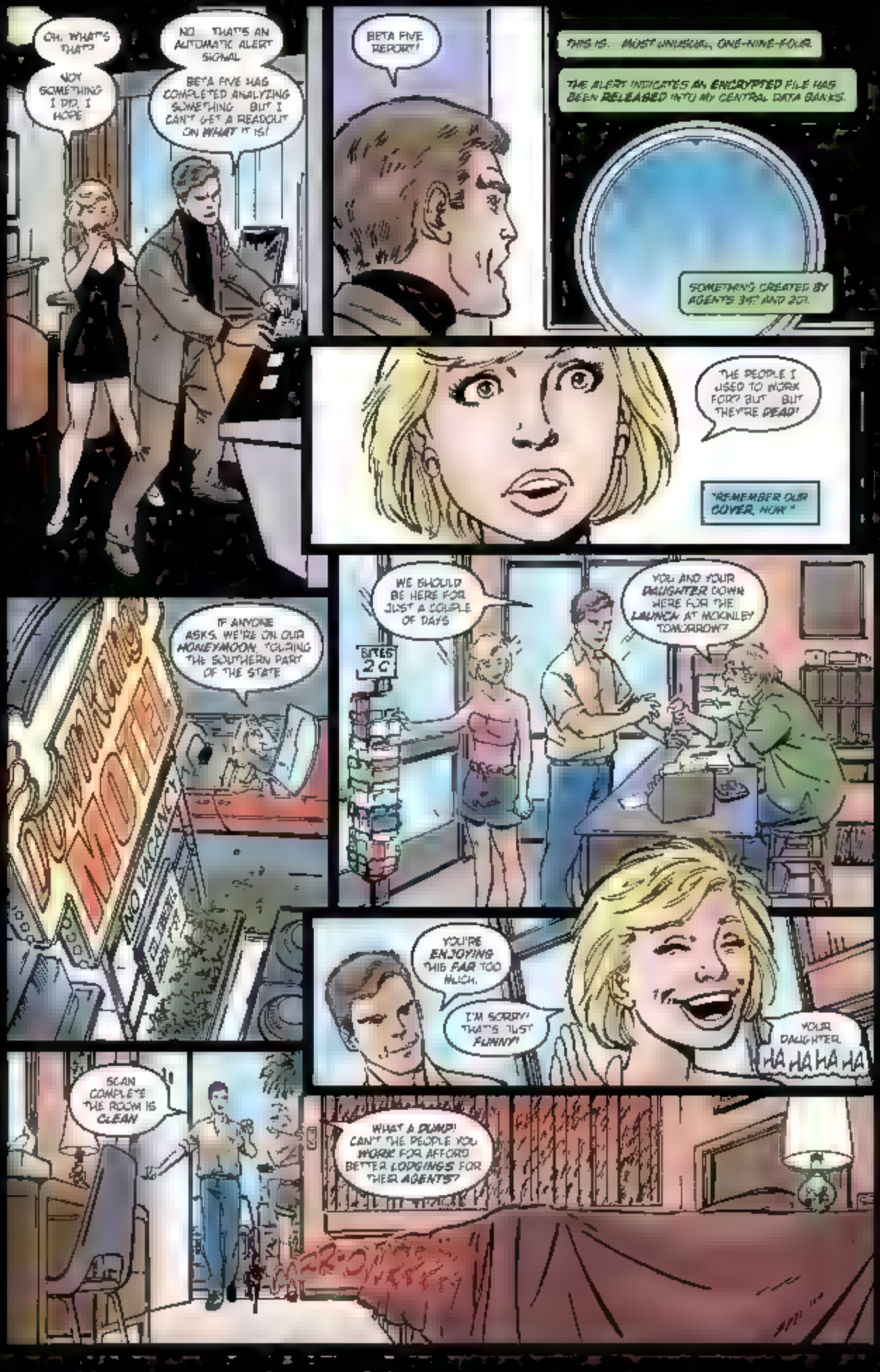
PROWRRR

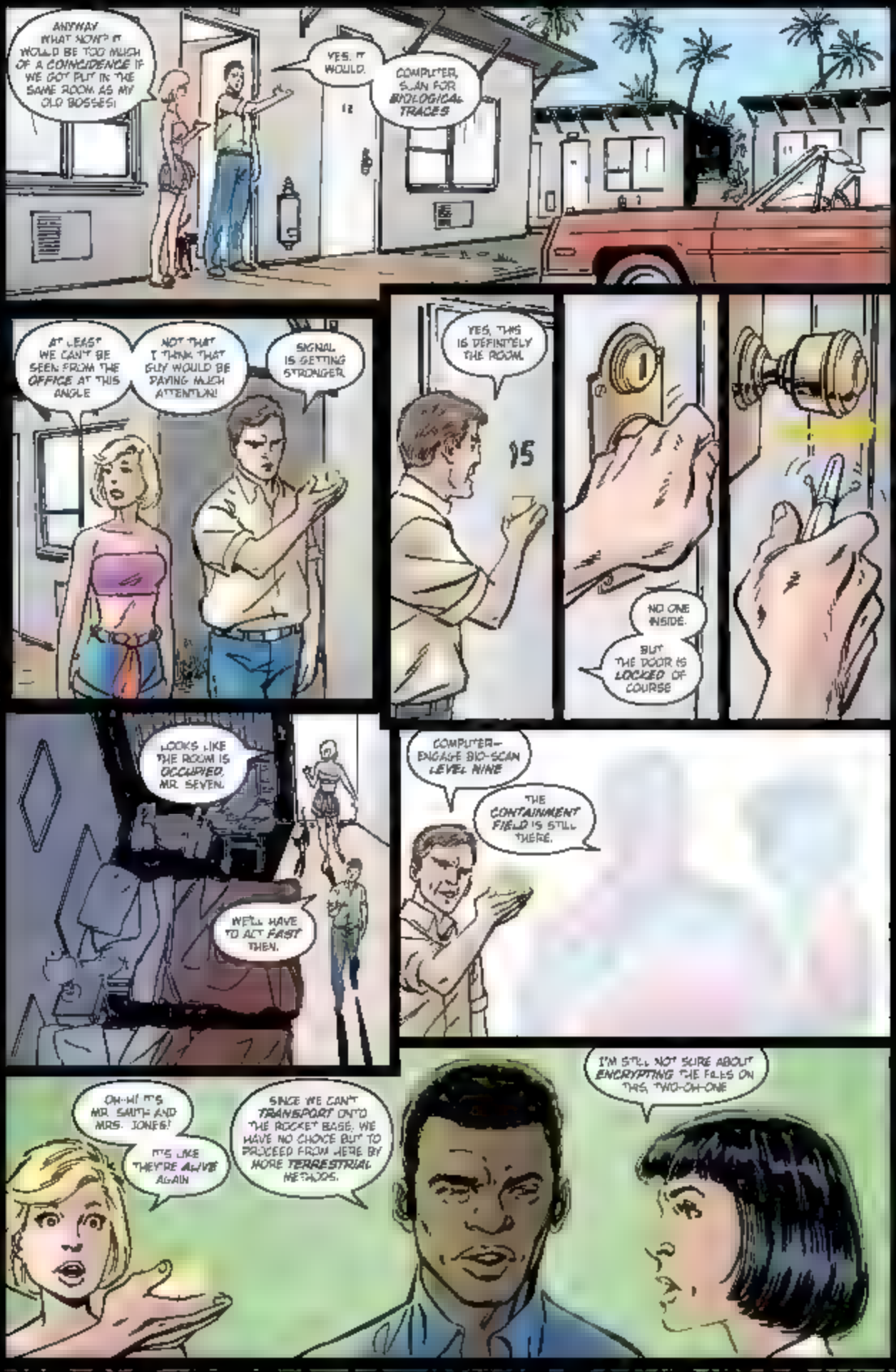
I MUST *OBJECT* TO THE TONE YOU ARE TAKING, ONE-NINE-FOUR.

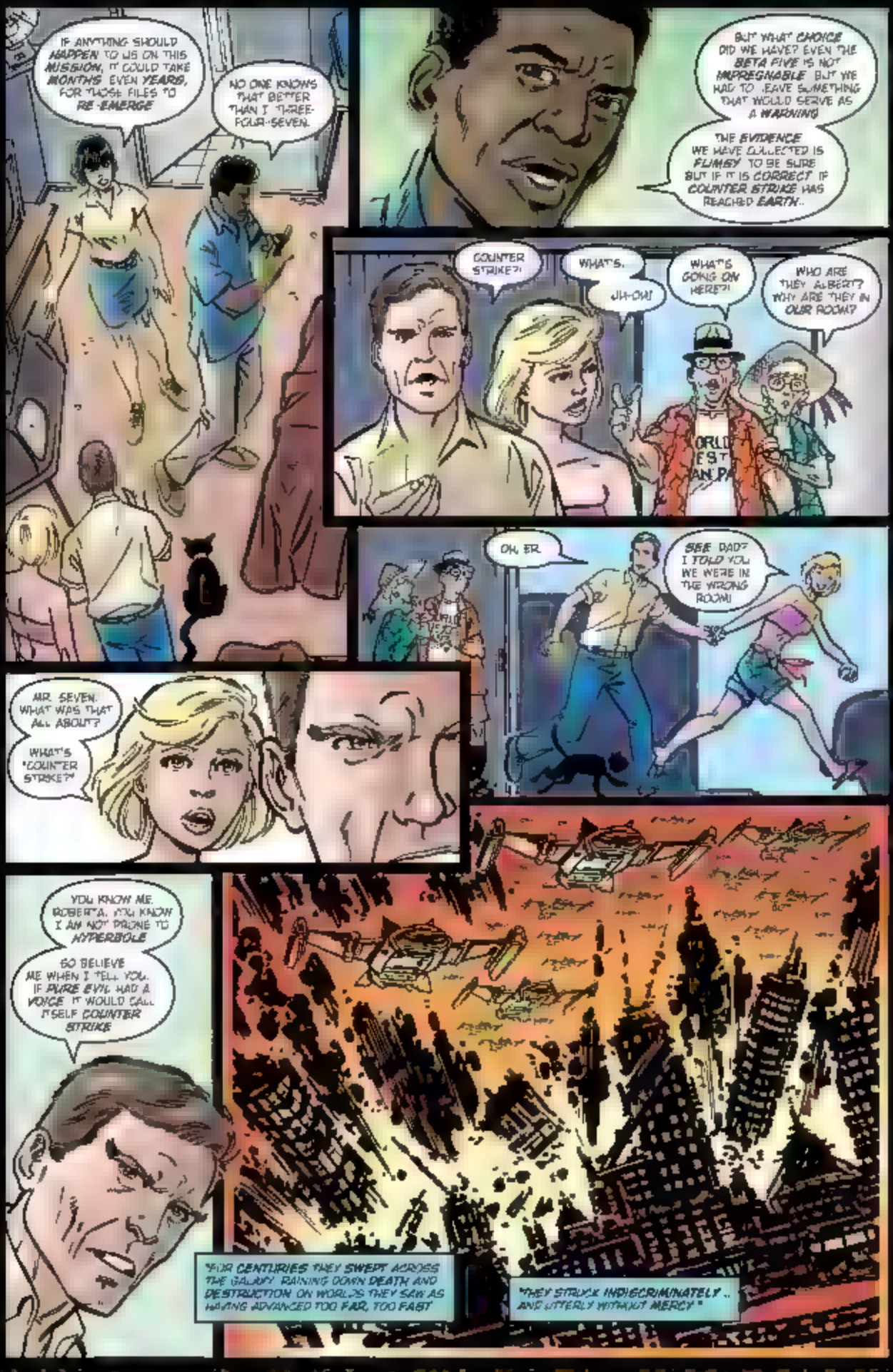
AS A BETA FIVE COMPUTER I AM CAPABLE OF HANDLING A NEARLY INFINITE AMOUNT OF DATA SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE TRIVIAL DISTRIBUTION OF MY FACULTIES NECESSARY TO ASSIST ROBERTA WAS.

DEET DEET DEET DEET DEET

WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY...


OH, WHAT'S THAT?
NOT SOMETHING I DID, I HOPE
NO... THAT'S AN AUTOMATIC ALERT SIGNAL
BETA FIVE HAS COMPLETED ANALYZING SOMETHING... BUT I CAN'T GET A READOUT ON WHAT IT IS!
BETA FIVE REPORT!
THIS IS... MOST UNUSUAL. ONE-NINE-FOUR.
THE ALERT INDICATES AN ENCRYPTED FILE HAS BEEN RELEASED INTO MY CENTRAL DATA BANKS.
SOMETHING CREATED BY AGENTS 347 AND 207.
THE PEOPLE I USED TO WORK FOR? BUT... BUT THEY'RE DEAD!
"REMEMBER OUR COVER, NOW."
DOWNTOWN MOTEL
NO VACANCY
IF ANYONE ASKS, WE'RE ON OUR HONEYMOON TOURING THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE
WE SHOULD BE HERE FOR JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS
YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER DOWN HERE FOR THE LAUNCH AT MCKINLEY TOMORROW?
BITES 2 C
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS FAR TOO MUCH.
I'M SORRY! THAT'S JUST FUNNY!
YOUR DAUGHTER.
HA HA HA HA
SCAN COMPLETE. THE ROOM IS CLEAN
WHAT A DUMP! CAN'T THE PEOPLE YOU WORK FOR AFFORD BETTER LODGINGS FOR THEIR AGENTS?


ANYWAY WHAT NOW? IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE IF WE GOT PUT IN THE SAME ROOM AS MY OLD BOSSES!
YES. IT WOULD.
COMPUTER, SCAN FOR BIOLOGICAL TRACES
AT LEAST WE CAN'T BE SEEN FROM THE OFFICE AT THIS ANGLE
NOT THAT I THINK THAT GUY WOULD BE PAYING MUCH ATTENTION
SIGNAL IS GETTING STRONGER
YES, THIS IS DEFINITELY THE ROOM.
15
NO ONE INSIDE.
BUT THE DOOR IS LOCKED OF COURSE
LOOKS LIKE THE ROOM IS OCCUPIED, MR. SEVEN.
WE'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST THEN.
COMPUTER— ENGAGE BIO-SCAN LEVEL NINE
THE CONTAINMENT FIELD IS STILL THERE.
OH-HI! IT'S MR. SMITH AND MRS. JONES!
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ALIVE AGAIN
SINCE WE CAN'T TRANSPORT ON'TO THE ROCKET BASE, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PROCEED FROM HERE BY MORE TERRESTRIAL METHODS.
I'M STILL NOT SURE ABOUT ENCRYPTING THE FILES ON THIS TWO-OH-ONE


IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO US ON THIS MISSION, IT COULD TAKE MONTHS EVEN YEARS, FOR THOSE FILES TO RE-EMERGE
NO ONE KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN I THREE-FOUR-SEVEN.
BUT WHAT CHOICE DID WE HAVE? EVEN THE BETA FIVE IS NOT IMPREGNABLE BUT WE HAD TO LEAVE SOMETHING THAT WOULD SERVE AS A WARNING
THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE COLLECTED IS FLIMSY TO BE SURE BUT IF IT IS CORRECT IF COUNTER STRIKE HAS REACHED EARTH..
COUNTER STRIKE?!
WHAT'S.
JIH-OH!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
WHO ARE THEY ALBERT? WHY ARE THEY IN OUR ROOM?
OH, ER
SEE DAD? I TOLD YOU WE WERE IN THE WRONG ROOM!
MR. SEVEN. WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
WHAT'S "COUNTER STRIKE?"
YOU KNOW ME ROBERTA. YOU KNOW I AM NOT PRONE TO HYPERBOLE
SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU. IF PURE EVIL HAD A VOICE IT WOULD CALL ITSELF COUNTER STRIKE
"FOR CENTURIES THEY SWEPT ACROSS THE GALAXY RAINING DOWN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ON WORLDS THEY SAW AS HAVING ADVANCED TOO FAR, TOO FAST
"THEY STRUCK INDISCRIMINATELY .. AND UTTERLY WITHOUT MERCY."

"SOME WORLDS WERE ABLE TO RESIST THEM.
THROUGH GREATER WISDOM.
OR SHEER SAVAGERY
AND SO, AFTER A WHILE, THEY BEGAN USING A MORE SUBTLE APPROACH."
OH MR SEVEN! YOU MEAN THEY WERE THE ONES WHO GAVE US THE ATOMIC BOMB AND BAD STUFF LIKE THAT?
ON SOME WORLDS, THAT WAS WHAT HAPPENED
WE'D NOTICED EARTH HAD SLIPPED UNDER THEIR GAZE BUT WITH THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WE'VE SEEN ON SOME OF OUR MISSIONS
HEY BUDDY WORD WITH YOU?
THIS GUY SEZ YOU AND YOUR KID WERE IN HIS ROOM.
ZAT TRUE?
OH. THAT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT HERE JUST LET ME .

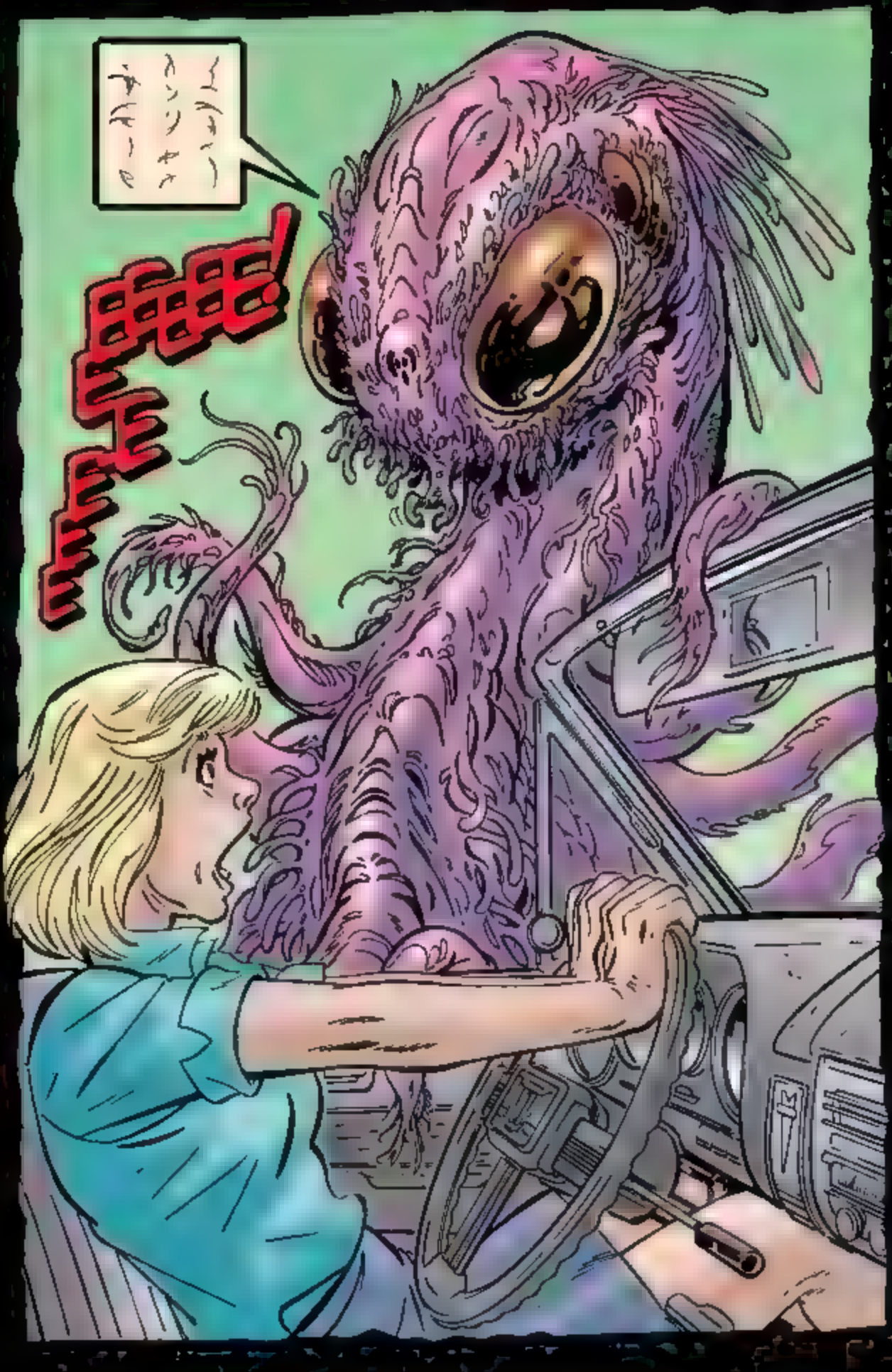
ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN. YOU JUST WALK ALONG THIS WAY NOW.
YOU CAN GO BACK IN THE OFFICE AND HAVE A LITTLE NAP
AND YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR WIFE AND TELL HER EVERYTHING IS OKAY
BUT WHAT NOW, MR. SEVEN? WHAT ABOUT "COUNTER STRIKE?"
FIRST WE HAVE TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE 20 AND 34? WERE CORRECT IN THEIR ASSESSMENT
AND THAT MEANS PICKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF
WON'T IT BE DANGEROUS TAKING THAT PROJECTION OUT IN TRAFFIC?
NO BECAUSE OF OUR PROXIMITY TO THE COMPUTER LINK, ONLY WE CAN SEE IT
LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO PROCEED WITH THE MISSION TO INTERFERE WITH THE LAUNCH OF THAT NUCLEAR PLATFORM
75
MCKINLEY ROCKET BASE NEXT 3 EXITS
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THAT TRUCK IT'S BLOWING TOO!
IT'S PART OF THE PROJECTION!
I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!

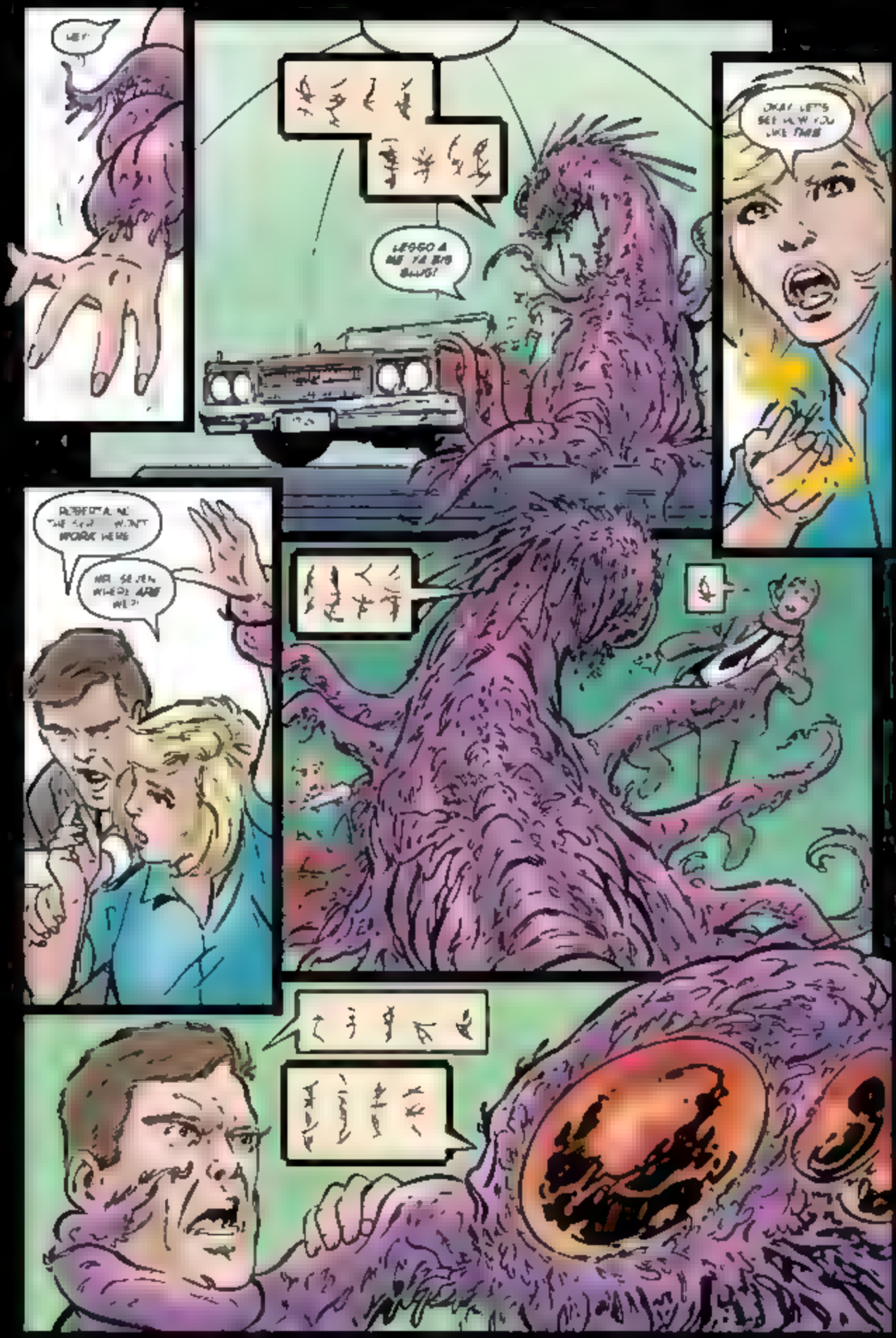
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE ALL THESE CARS ARE WHIZZING BY
AND NO ONE CAN SEE THIS.
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN HARDER TO BELIEVE
RYERSON RIVER
THAT ANYONE COULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
MIDDLE COUNTY SHERIF
ANIMAL CONTROL IS DOWN THE HALL ON THE LEFT

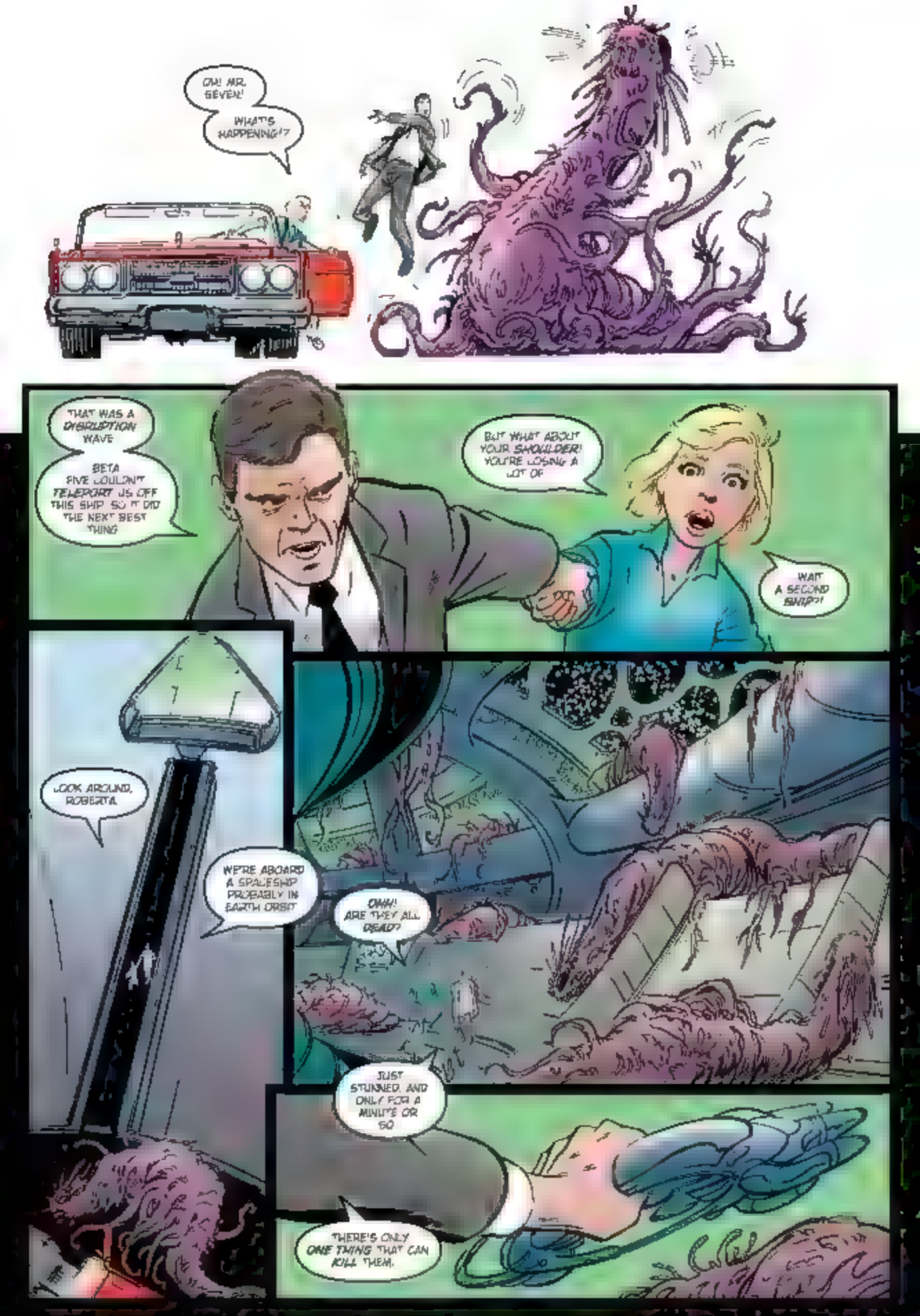
WE'RE NOT HERE TO REPORT A LOST CAT, SHERIFF
I'M SPECIAL AGENT GARY SEVEN, FBI, AND THIS IS MY ASSISTANT, MS. LINCOLN.
AND WHAT DOES THE FBI WANT 'ROUND THESE PARTS?
WE'RE DOING FOLLOW-UP ON AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED AT THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVERSON RIVER, ON ROUTE 949 ABOUT THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS AGO.
THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS?
YEAH, I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT HAVE RECORDS THAT FAR BACK
AUTO ACCIDENT YOU SAID?
GOT AN EXACT DATE?
ROBERTA! GET DOWN!
'TIS WORSE THAN I FEARED!
YOU MEAN, THEY'RE ALL ALIENS?!

NO. THEY'RE AS HUMAN AS YOU ARE
BUT THEY'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO RESPOND TO A SPECIFIC STIMULUS
IN THIS CASE
ANYONE ASKING ABOUT THAT "ACCIDENT"
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO NEW YORK, PRONTO!
I HAVE TO REPORT THIS INCURSION TO
UNGH!
MISTER SEVEN!

NOW JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
I AIN'T NEVER SHOT A WOMAN BEFORE BUT THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING.
BLAM
BACK OFF, COWBOY!
AND BE GLAD I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SET THIS THING TO KILL!
COME ON, ISIS! WE GOTTA FIND A HOSPITAL
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYBODY'S FOLLOWING US.
WE MUST HAVE
OH!
OH!!!
OH!


EEEEEEE!

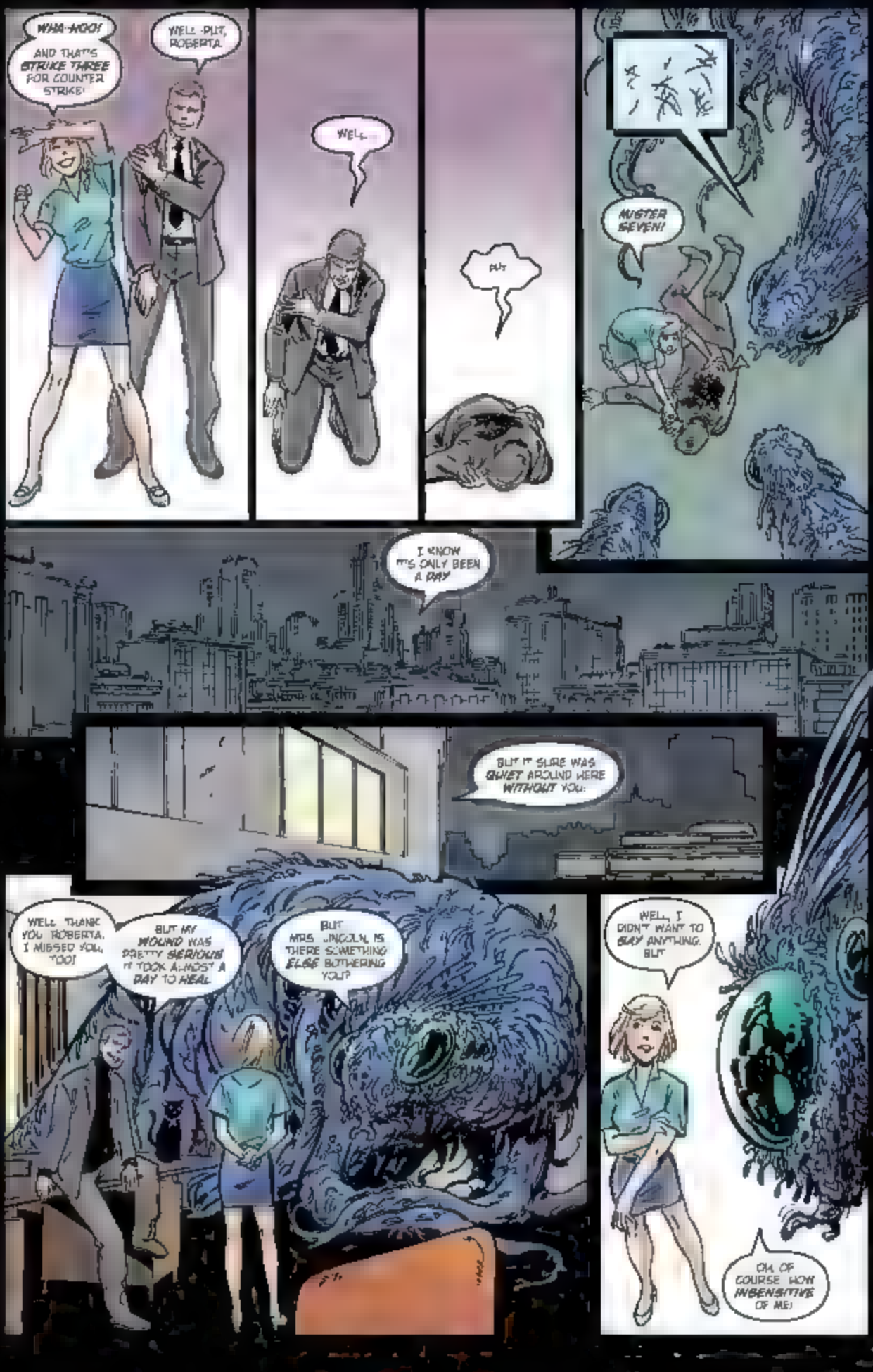



OH! MR. SEVEN!
WHAT'S HAPPENING!?
THAT WAS A DISRUPTION WAVE
BETA FIVE COULDN'T TELEPORT US OFF THIS SHIP SO IT DID THE NEXT BEST THING
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR SHOULDER! YOU'RE LOSING A LOT OF
WAIT A SECOND SHIP?!
LOOK AROUND, ROBERTA.
WE'RE ABOARD A SPACESHIP PROBABLY IN EARTH ORBIT
OHH! ARE THEY ALL DEAD?
JUST STUNNED. AND ONLY FOR A MINUTE OR SO
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN KILL THEM.

OH! MR. SEVEN!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHOOT THEM WHILE THEY'RE UNCONSCIOUS?!
AS TEMPTING AS THAT IS, ROBERTA—
—NO
BUT WHAT I AM DOING WILL TRIGGER THE AUTO-DEFENSE SYSTEMS
BUT WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM, RIGHT?
YES, WE CAN RUN
AND IF MY BLASTS ARE HITTING THE CIRCUITS I HOPE THEY ARE
WE CAN IMPROVE OUR SITUATION SOMEWHAT!
EXHALE ROBERTA! FORCE AS MUCH AIR OUT OF YOUR LUNGS AS YOU CAN!
WHY? WHAT'S GOING TO—
—000-000MMM...!!

OH--WHOA! I KNOW THAT FEELING
WE'VE BEEN TELEPORTED!
TRY TO BREATHE NORMALLY ROBERTA!
FOR THE MOMENT WE'RE SAFE
SAFE? WHERE
...AUGH! IT'S THE SAME BUG-EYED MONSTERS
THE SAME SPECIES, ROBERTA. BUT THESE ARE ON OUR SIDE
ER. HI?
THIS IS ANOTHER SPACE SHIP. ISN'T IT?
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER ONE?
OH-HH, MR. SEVEN.

NO, SEVEN—?
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE VIEWSCREEN.

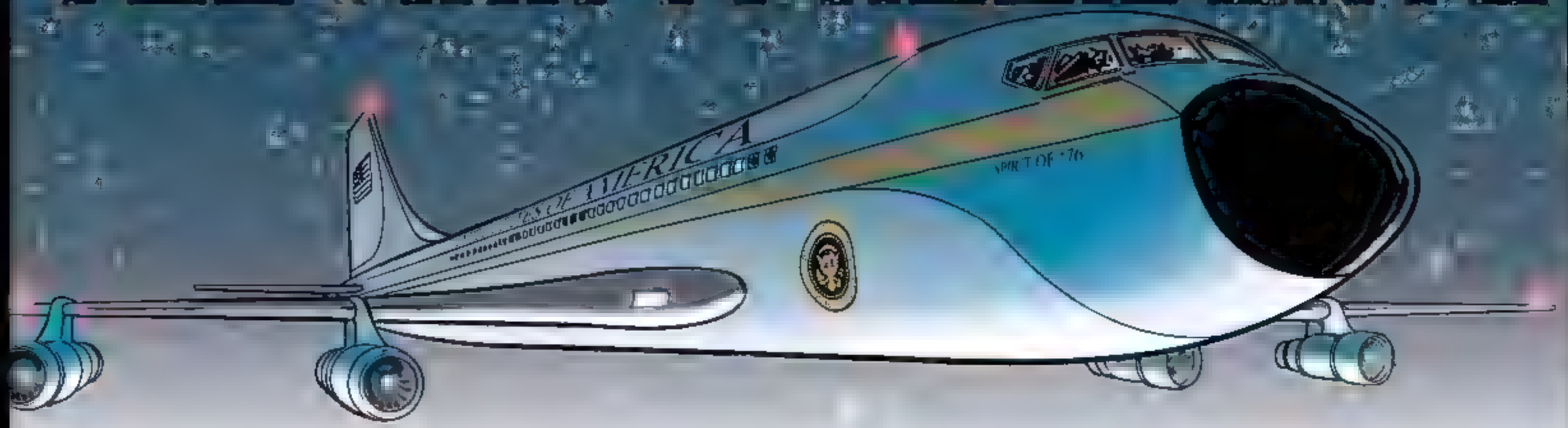

WAH-HOO!
AND THAT'S STRIKE THREE FOR COUNTER STRIKE!
WELL, PUT, ROBERTA.
WELL...
PUT
MISTER SEVEN!
I KNOW IT'S ONLY BEEN A DAY
BUT IT SURE WAS QUIET AROUND HERE WITHOUT YOU.
WELL, THANK YOU ROBERTA. I MISSED YOU, TOO!
BUT MY WOUND WAS PRETTY SERIOUS IT TOOK ALMOST A DAY TO HEAL
BUT MRS. LINCOLN, IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE BOTHERING YOU?
WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING. BUT
OH, OF COURSE HOW INSENSITIVE OF ME!

IS THIS BETTER?
WOW!
I MEAN, YES. THANKS! MUCH!
AND WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE BRAINWASHED BY COUNTER STRIKE?
THEY HAVE BEEN ATTENDED TO, ONE-NINE-FOUR.
THEY WILL HAVE NO MEMORY OF THE UNPLEASANTNESS
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, ROBERTA?
I'VE KNOWN YOU LONG ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO TELL SOMETHING IS STILL BOTHERING YOU.
WELL, IT'S JUST
.. IF THE BAD GUYS ARE REALLY GONE FOR GOOD, YOU'LL BE LEAVING SOON, WON'T YOU?
I WISH THAT WAS TRUE, ROBERTA
BUT EVEN WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERANCE HUMANKIND STILL NEEDS MY HELP!
GREAT!
I MEAN, WELL, NOT GREAT, BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE STAYING. GARY
BUT I MUST BE LEAVING. GOOD FORTUNE FOLLOW YOUR DAYS, GARY SEVEN!
AND YOURS, MY FRIEND
YOU KNOW THAT WAS REALLY IMPRESSIVE
THE WAY YOU SPOKE THEIR LANGUAGE AND EVERYTHING!
ARE THEY LIKE OLD PALS OF THE PEOPLE YOU WORK FOR?
NO, ROBERTA.
THEY ARE THE PEOPLE I WORK FOR.
END.

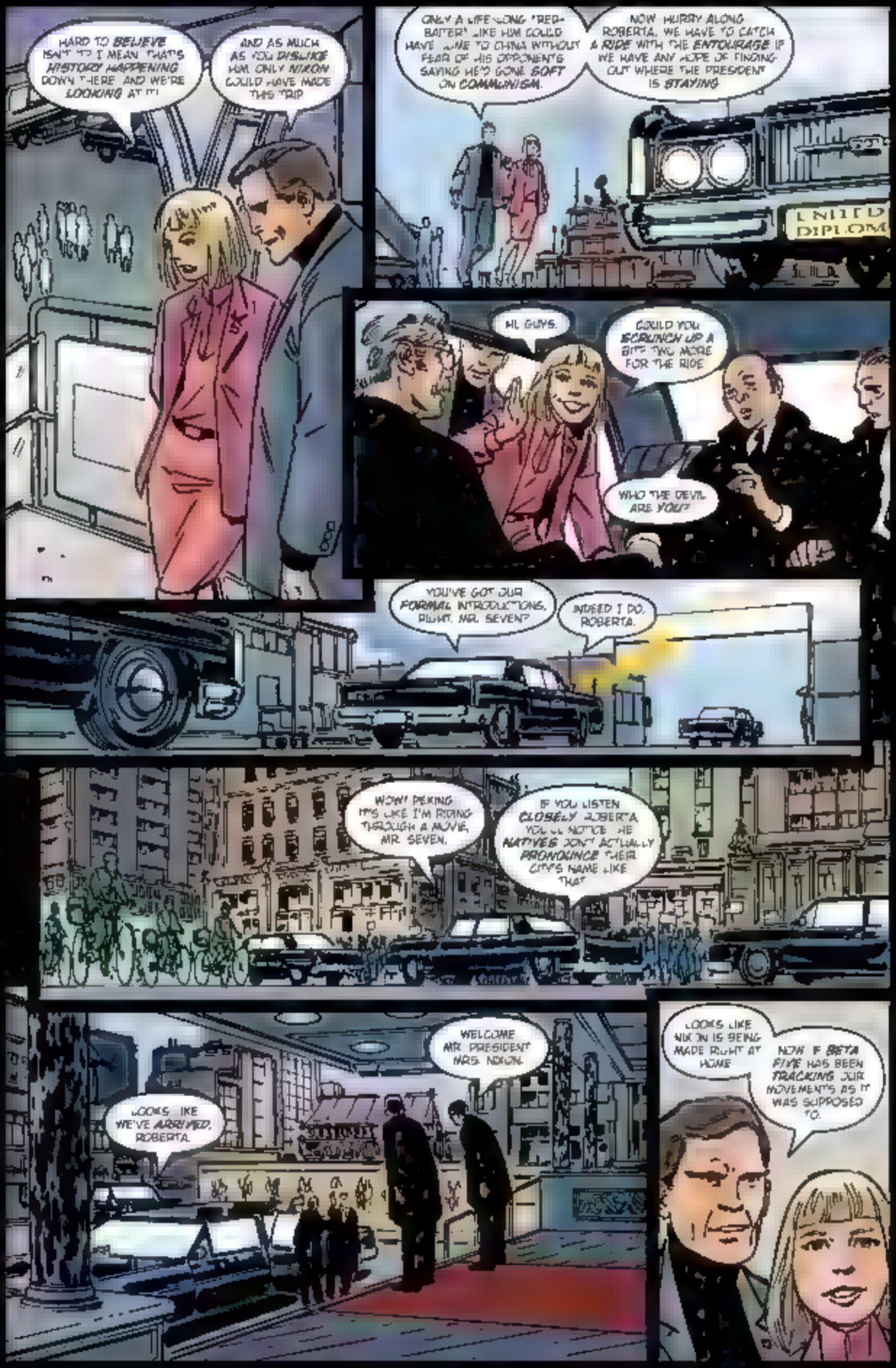
CHAPTER
FIVE

FEBRUARY 1972
THANK YOU FOR COMING SO VERY EARLY COMRADE CHAIRMAN.
I PRESUME YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE COMRADE DOCTOR?
OF COURSE, COMRADE CHAIRMAN
AND MAY I ALSO APOLOGIZE FOR TAKING SO LONG TO BRING THIS PROJECT TO FRUITION
YES. RIGHT DOWN TO THE WIRE. AS OUR AMERICAN VISITORS WOULD SAY
BUT IT IS STILL A FULL DAY BEFORE THEY ARRIVE
YOU UNDERSTAND, COMRADE CHAIRMAN, THAT THERE WERE UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES.
YES. ENGINEERING THE CORRECT ACCELERATION OF FACIAL HAIR PROVED MORE DEMANDING THAN WE EXPECTED
BUT THAT HAS BEEN SOLVED AS YOU WILL SEE
THUS FAR COMRADE DOCTOR'S I SEE NOTHING I HAVE NOT ALREADY SEEN!
BUT YOU WILL COMRADE CHAIRMAN
INDEED YOU WILL
AFTER FIFTEEN FAILED ATTEMPTS. I WAS BEGINNING TO FEAR
THAT NO VOLUNTEER WOULD EVER BE WHAT WE NEEDED
BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, HE IS.
"WOW!
PERFECT!

TOO MANY PRESIDENTS

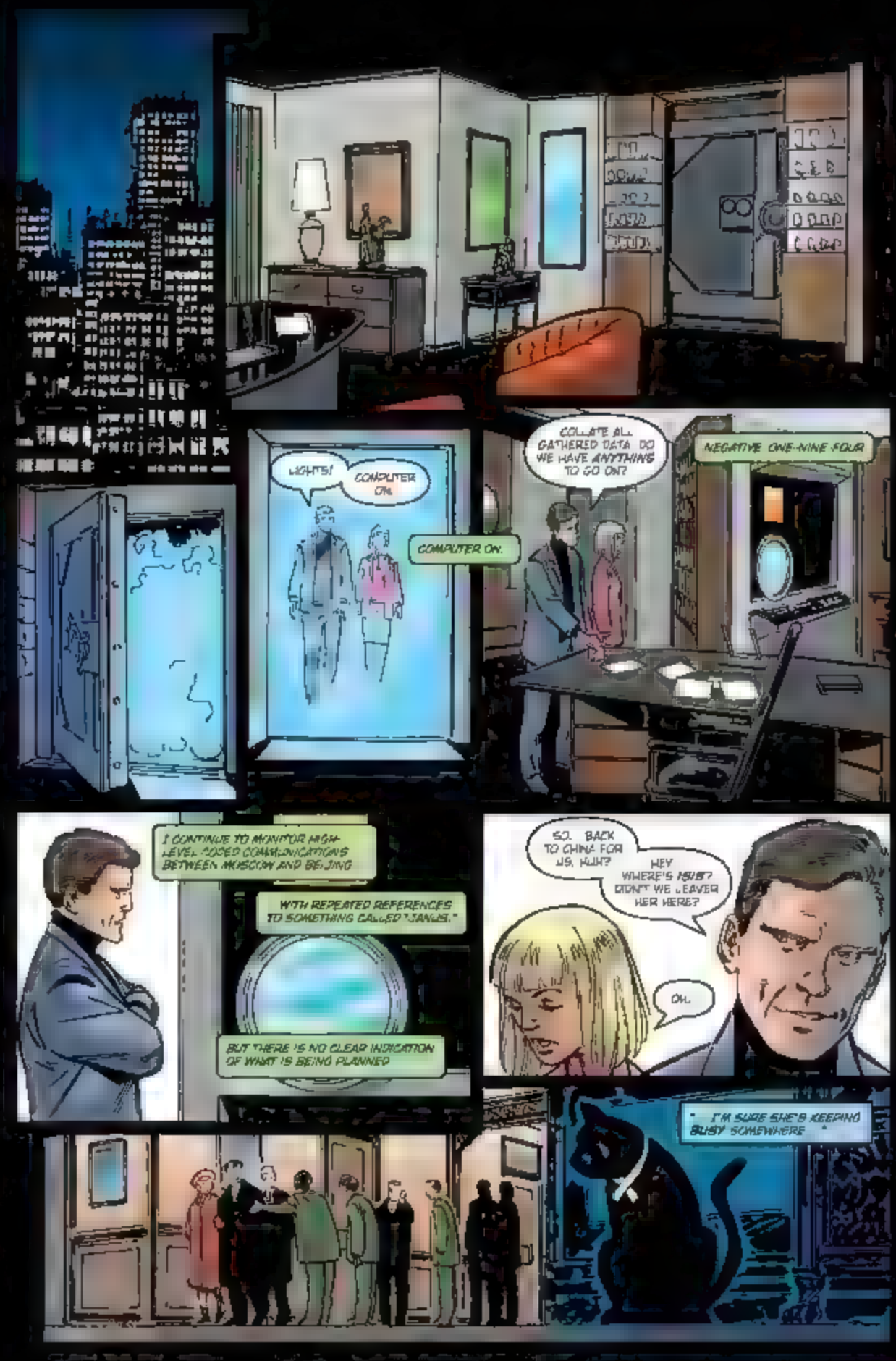

NOT SURE WHY YOU'RE SO IMPRESSED, ROBERTA.
YOU KNOW BETA FIVE COULD TELEPORT US TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY IF NECESSARY!
I KNOW. BUT I ALWAYS FIGURED THE ONLY WAY I'D EVER GET ON AIR FORCE ONE WAS TO MARRY A PRESIDENT!
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ONCE THAT WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL FLYING WITH YOUR PARENTS,
THE SECRET SERVICE HAD COMMANDEERED THE FIRST CLASS SECTION FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER? SO, TECHNICALLY...
HEY. WHO ARE YOU? I DIDN'T SEE YOU COME ABOARD.
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT AGENT. WE'RE CLEARED FOR THIS TRIP.
COLONEL GARY SEVEN?
AND THIS IS MY ASSISTANT MS. LINCOLN.
WE'RE I HAVE CLEARANCE FOR HER, TOO.
NOW THEN, AGENT...
WHY DON'T YOU STROLL ALONG AND ASK THE CHEF WHAT WE'RE HAVING FOR DINNER?
YES. CHEF DINNER.
OHGOSH, LOOK.
IT'S HIM. IT'S THE PRESIDENT!
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T TRUST NIXON, ROBERTA?

WELL, I DON'T NOT REALLY
BUT THIS IS KINDA ABOUT THE OFFICE. YOU KNOW? NOT THE MAN?
WHAT'S ALL THIS JIBBER-JABBER?
CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE HAVING A MEETING HERE?
SORRY TO INTRUDE MR. PRESIDENT I'M COLONEL SEVEN OF THE NSA
SEVEN. YES AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, MY DEAR?
ROBERTA LINCOLN, MR. PRESIDENT
LINCOLN: THEY CALL HIM THE GREATEST REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT!
BUT DID HE EVER HAVE TO PLAY ON THE WORLD STAGE LIKE I DO? DID HE?
ER I DON'T THINK HE AND I ARE ACTUALLY RELATED MR. PRESIDENT
NO. NO OF COURSE NOT
WELCOME ABOARD. MY DEAR I HOPE TO SEE MORE OF YOU!
OH!
MR. SEVEN!
HE.
I MEAN.
HE.
BUT HE'S THE PRESIDENT!
FIND A SEAT AND TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP, ROBERTA.
WE HAVE A BUSY TIME AHEAD OF US.
" AND I HAVE TO FINISH SCANNING THIS PLANE BEFORE WE LAND IN THE CHINESE CAPITAL "
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WELCOME TO CHINA, MR. PRESIDENT!


HARD TO BELIEVE ISN'T IT I MEAN THAT'S HISTORY HAPPENING DOWN THERE AND WE'RE LOOKING AT IT!
AND AS MUCH AS YOU DISLIKE HIM ONLY NIXON COULD HAVE MADE THIS TRIP
ONLY A LIFE-LONG 'RED-BAITER' LIKE HIM COULD HAVE GONE TO CHINA WITHOUT FEAR OF HIS OPPONENT'S SAYING HE'D GONE SOFT ON COMMUNISM.
NOW HURRY ALONG ROBERTA. WE HAVE TO CATCH A RIDE WITH THE ENTOURAGE IF WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF FINDING OUT WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS STAYING
HI GUYS.
COULD YOU SCRUNCH UP A BITE TWO MORE FOR THE RIDE
WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?
YOU'VE GOT OUR FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS, RIGHT, MR. SEVEN?
INDEED I DO, ROBERTA.
WOW! PEKING IT'S LIKE I'M RIDING THROUGH A MOVIE, MR. SEVEN.
IF YOU LISTEN CLOSELY ROBERTA YOU'LL NOTICE THE NATIVES DON'T ACTUALLY PRONOUNCE THEIR CITY'S NAME LIKE THAT
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE ARRIVED, ROBERTA.
WELCOME MR. PRESIDENT MRS. NIXON.
LOOKS LIKE NIXON IS BEING MADE RIGHT AT HOME
NOW IF BETA FIVE HAS BEEN TRACKING OUR MOVEMENTS AS IT WAS SUPPOSED TO.

GOOD DAY MR. SEVEN, MS. LINCOLN.
WELCOME TO BEIJING
"BEIJING"? OH! IS THAT WHAT YOU MEANT BY
HEY, WAIT A SECOND. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?
MR. SEVEN AND I ARE OLD FRIENDS, MS. LINCOLN.
YOU MAY CALL ME HE! MAO
NOW COME THIS WAY PLEASE
THERE IS A BACK WAY INTO THE BUILDING WE CAN USE UNDETECTED
NO GUARDS?
THEY HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY REMOVED
THIS IS THE SERVICE ELEVATOR
THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AN ENTIRE FLOOR
BUT ONLY ONE SUITE OF ROOMS WILL BE USED
YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB WELL
NOW I NEED TO DO MINE

COMPUTER, SCAN TWENTY-METER RADIUS
SCANNING
ALL APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER, SUPERVISOR ONE-NINE-FOUR.
HEY DO YOU HEAR ?
OMIGOSH. SOMEBODY'S COMING IN!
WHO IS BLAZES ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE PRESIDENT'S SUITE?
MOVE ALONG NOW GIRLS. THEY'LL RECOVER WITH NO MEMORY OF US BEING HERE
MR SEVEN WAIT!
YOU WERE RIGHT WHEN YOU SAID I DON'T TRUST NIXON. A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T
WHAT IF WHILE HE'S LIKE THIS WE JUST ASK HIM IF HE'S DOING ANYTHING BAD?
WE CAN'T DO THAT, ROBERTA
NOT WITHOUT SOME EVIDENCE OF MALFEASANCE IT WOULD BE WRONG
BUT BUT


LIGHTS!
COMPUTER ON.
COMPUTER ON.
COLLATE ALL GATHERED DATA. DO WE HAVE ANYTHING TO GO ON?
NEGATIVE ONE-NINE FOUR
I CONTINUE TO MONITOR HIGH-LEVEL CODED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND BEIJING
WITH REPEATED REFERENCES TO SOMETHING CALLED "JANUS."
BUT THERE IS NO CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT IS BEING PLANNED
SO. BACK TO CHINA FOR US, HUH?
HEY WHERE'S HSUE? DIDN'T WE LEAVE HER HERE?
OH.
" I'M SURE SHE'S KEEPING BUSY SOMEWHERE "

EXCUSE ME, COMRADE DIRECTOR. I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO JOIN THE PARTY ACCOMPANYING THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT
HERE ARE MY LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION.
HM?
WHY WAS I NOT INFORMED OF THIS?
THESE PAPERS APPEAR TO BE IN ORDER.
I WILL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THIS YOUNG LADY JOINING OUR GROUP?
NOT AT ALL! NOT AT ALL
IN FACT, WHY DON'T YOU RIDE IN THE MAIN CAR, WITH ME, MY DEAR?
YOU CAN GIVE ME YOUR PERSONAL VIEW OF EVERYTHING WE SEE TODAY.
THIS WAY THEN, IF YOU PLEASE, MR. PRESIDENT
YUCK.
WE'RE JUST NEVER GOING TO ARRIVE AT SOMEBODY'S FRONT DOOR, ARE WE?
MOST LIKELY NOT
WE'RE IN A SUB-BASEMENT OF ONE OF THE MAIN BUILDINGS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY IS SIX FLIGHTS UP!
GREAT! AND BETA FIVE DIDN'T EXACTLY GIVE ME SENSIBLE SHOES
WERE WERE ARE
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE JUST IN TIME FOR THE CEREMONIES TO BEGIN.
GREETINGS TO YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I BRING YOU WARMEST REGARDS
WHICH ARE MOST GRATEFULLY RECIPROCATED, MR. PRESIDENT

LOOK! THERE'S ME! MAO! SHE'S ALREADY GOT HERSELF INTO THE NIXON PARTY
YES.
BLACK CAT?
WHERE IS THE BLACK CAT! THE CHAIRMAN IS VERY ALLERGIC.
IT MUST BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY!
BLACK CAT? WHAT ?

A FAMILIAR FACE. I'M SURE
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES?!
SUBDUE HIM.
UMPH!
DEAD QUIET NOW
EVERYTHING LOOKS NORMAL. ARE YOU SURE OF WHAT YOU SAW?
I WOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS ONE-NINE-FOUR.
ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT! DON'T GET HUFFY!
POW!
NOW. WITH BOTH OF THEM SEDATED.
COMPUTER, SCAN!
FEMALE IDENTITY CONFIRMED THELMA CATHERINE "PAT" NIXON
MALE IDENTITY UNKNOWN. DNA SUGGEST BIRTHPLACE SOMEWHERE IN SOVIET GEORGIA
HE'S RUSSIAN?!

SO IT WOULD SEEM
AND THAT MEANS THIS BUSINESS HAS AN EVEN BROADER SCOPE THAN I'D FEARED.
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET "NIXON" MOVING.
YOU MEAN BRING HIM WITH US? WHY?
WE HAVE TO BE READY TO SWITCH HIM BACK AS SOON AS WE GET THE CHANCE.
THE DOORWAY IS RIGHT HERE BUT SEALED TIGHT!
THIS PASSAGE LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN HERE FOREVER!
MUST HAVE WAS SOME FUNCTION IN THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE
STAY CLOSE NO LIGHTS IN HERE
ELEVATOR. LOOKS AS OLD AS THE PASSAGE.
WE LOST A LOT OF TIME WAITING FOR THAT ELEVATOR TO COME BACK UP!
YES. UNLIKELY THE KIDNAPPERS WILL STILL BE IN THE AREA.
GONE!
WE'VE LOST THEM, THEN?

NO, ROBERTA
NOW THAT BETA FIVE HAS A FIX ON NIXON THROUGH THIS SCAN UNIT
" WE CAN TRACK HIM ANYWHERE "
EXCELLENT WORK COMRADES. THE PREMIERE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS DELIVERY!
DELIVERY?
OUR ARRANGEMENT WAS THAT IT WOULD BE WE WHO FIRST INTERROGATED THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT!
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR TURN, COMRADE
AFTER HE HAS PAID A VISIT TO MOTHER RUSSIA.
THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE! IT IS WE WHO HAVE TAKEN ALL THE RISKS.
IT IS WE WHO SHOULD BE FIRST TO REAP THE BENEFITS!
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF WAREHOUSE
LOOK! IS THAT HIM?
WAIT FOR THE MOMENT NOW
I REMIND YOU, COMRADE. YOU ARE GUESTS IN THIS NATION, AND IF WE CHOOSE..
NOW!
YOU LOOK AFTER THE REAL NIXON WHILE I CHECK THIS GUY FOR IDENTIFICATION
IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO KNOW WHO HE IS.
RIGHT
MR. PRESIDENT! ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH-RRUHH? MISS LINCOLN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

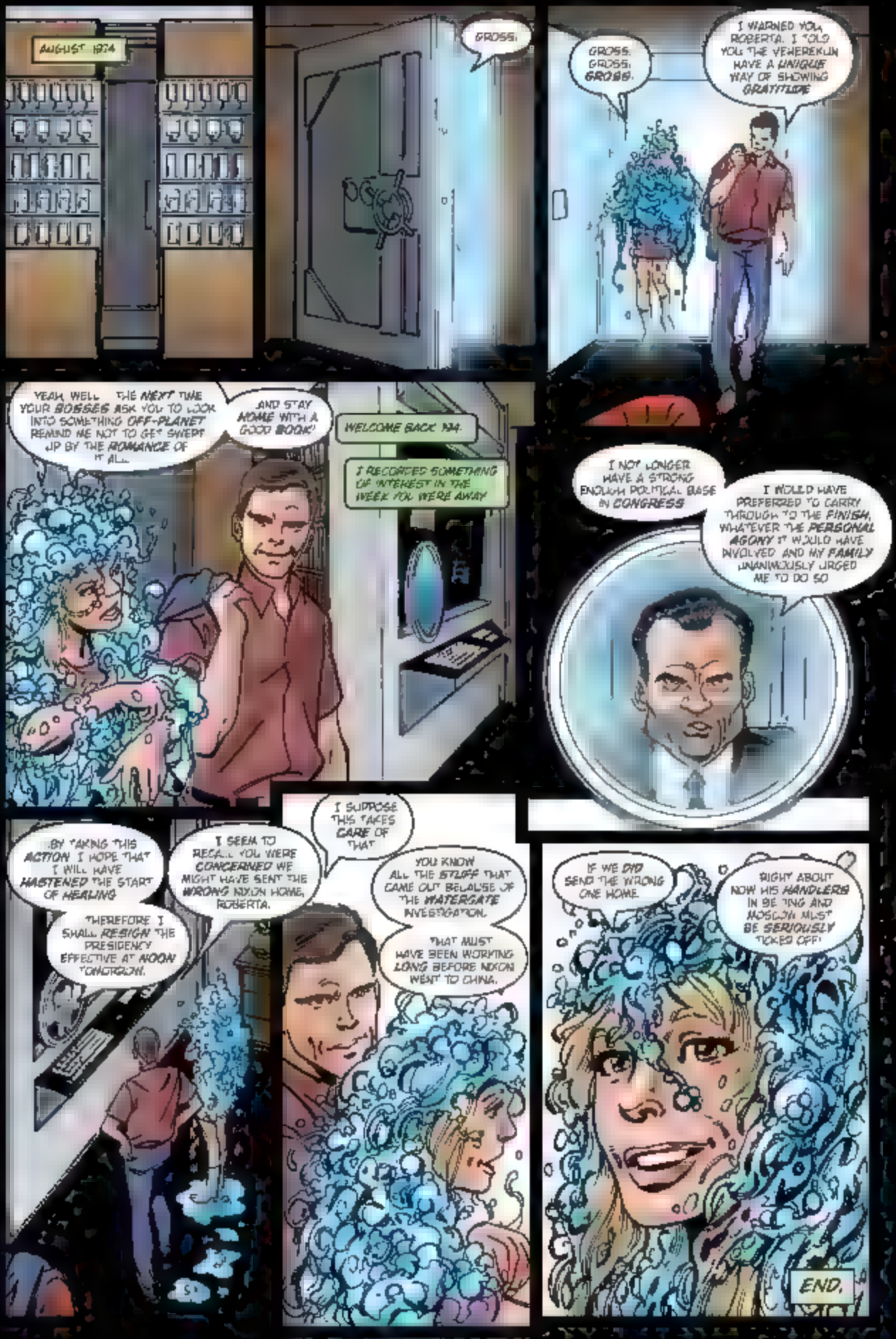
RESCUING YOU OF COURSE!
I HOPE YOU'LL REMEMBER THIS THE NEXT TIME ONE OF THOSE YOUTH APPROPRIATION BILLS COMES ACROSS YOUR DESK
I'D BETTER SCAN HIM TO MAKE SURE THE RUSSIANS AND THE CHINESE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO HIM!
SCAN? WHAT?
NEVER MIND THAT!
SINCE YOU BROUGHT HIM WITH YOU I WANT THIS IMPOSTOR ARRESTED! I WANT HIM TAKEN BACK STATESIDE FOR INTERROGATION!
NO.
NO!
TWO YEARS OF SURGERY SO I CAN ROT IN AN AMERICAN PRISON?
I THINK NOT!
GET DOWN!

BLAST
HE'S OUT OF AMMO!
JUST ONCE COULD WE GO SOMEWHERE THAT PEOPLE DON'T SHOOT AT US?
UNGH!
MR. SEVEN
OH THE FAKE NIXON! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
YOU LOOK AFTER COLONEL SEVEN, MISS LINCOLN! I'LL DEAL WITH THAT LOWLIFE RAT!
MR. PRESIDENT?
OH! MR. PRESIDENT!
NO! COME BACK!
WHERE ARE YOU? SHOW YOURSELF!
NOBODY STEALS MY FACE AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

JUST A LITTLE CLOSE—
AHGHH!
A CAT? WHERE DID A CAT COME FROM??
WHEREVER IT WAS, THE TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER!
DROP IT! DROP IT I SAY DROP THAT
BANG

HOLD IT!
OMIGOSH! HOW DO WE TELL IF THIS IS THE RIGHT NIXON?
I-AM-REALLY-RICHARD-NIXON.
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
WHICHEVER ONE HE IS WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE HE'S ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE TOMORROW!
HEY MAO CAN HANDLE CLEAN-UP HERE
"WE HAVE TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PREVENT WORLD WAR III!"
"THEN YOU'RE SURE HE'S THE REAL ONE?"

AS SURE AS I CAN BE WITHOUT A CONFIRMING SCAN BY BETA FIVE
BUT WHETHER OR NOT HE'S THE REAL NIXON IS ONLY PART OF THE PROBLEM, ROBERTA.
REALLY? SOUNDS LIKE THE WHOLE PROBLEM TO ME!
THE WHOLE PROBLEM IS THAT HE'S THE ONLY NIXON WE'VE GOT
IF THE REAL ONE WAS THE ONE WHO DIED IN THAT HALL WAY IN CHINA, WE STILL HAVE TO MAKE SURE ONE OF THEM GETS BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE!
BUT IF HE IS THE WRONG ONE ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHAT THE COMMUNISTS WANT?
NO. THEY WANT THEIR AGENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THAT IS WHAT I HAVE TO PREVENT!
OHGOSH! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
FINISH WHAT I STARTED LAST NIGHT WHEN I ERASED ALL OF HIS MEMORIES OF THIS INCIDENT
NOW I HAVE TO MAKE A FEW FURTHER ADJUSTMENT TO MAKE SURE HE BELIEVES HE IS RICHARD NIXON AND NO ONE ELSE
SHOULDN'T WE YOU KNOW, LIKE WAIT UNTIL WE CAN GET BETTY TO DO THAT?
NO TIME. HE HAS TO BE PRIMED FROM THE MOMENT HE HIT THE GROUND.
MR. PRESIDENT I WONDER IF I MIGHT HAVE A PRIVATE WORD WITH YOU?


AUGUST 1974
GROSS!
GROSS. GROSS. GROSS.
I WARNED YOU, ROBERTA. I TOLD YOU THE YEHEREKUN HAVE A UNIQUE WAY OF SHOWING GRATITUDE
YEAH, WELL... THE NEXT TIME YOUR BOSSES ASK YOU TO LOOK INTO SOMETHING OFF-PLANET REMIND ME NOT TO GET SWEPT UP BY THE ROMANCE OF IT ALL.
AND STAY HOME WITH A GOOD BOOK!
WELCOME BACK, HJ4.
I RECORDED SOMETHING OF INTEREST IN THE WEEK YOU WERE AWAY
I NO LONGER HAVE A STRONG ENOUGH POLITICAL BASE IN CONGRESS
I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO CARRY THROUGH TO THE FINISH, WHATEVER THE PERSONAL AGONY IT WOULD HAVE INVOLVED AND MY FAMILY UNANIMOUSLY URGED ME TO DO SO
BY TAKING THIS ACTION I HOPE THAT I WILL HAVE HASTENED THE START OF HEALING
I SEEM TO RECALL YOU WERE CONCERNED WE MIGHT HAVE SENT THE WRONG NIXON HOME, ROBERTA.
I SUPPOSE THIS TAKES CARE OF THAT
YOU KNOW ALL THE STUFF THAT CAME OUT BECAUSE OF THE WATERGATE INVESTIGATION.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WORKING LONG BEFORE NIXON WENT TO CHINA.
THEREFORE I SHALL RESIGN THE PRESIDENCY EFFECTIVE AT NOON TOMORROW.
IF WE DID SEND THE WRONG ONE HOME...
RIGHT ABOUT NOW HIS HANDLERS IN BEIJING AND MOSCOW MUST BE SERIOUSLY TICKED OFF!
END.

AH-HA!
GOOOOOOD MORNING, ISIS!
IS MR. SEVEN NOT IN YET?
HOPE HE'S NOT TOO LONG! YOU KNOW HOW HE HATES HIS COFFEE GETTING--
-OO-OH-HHHHHH!

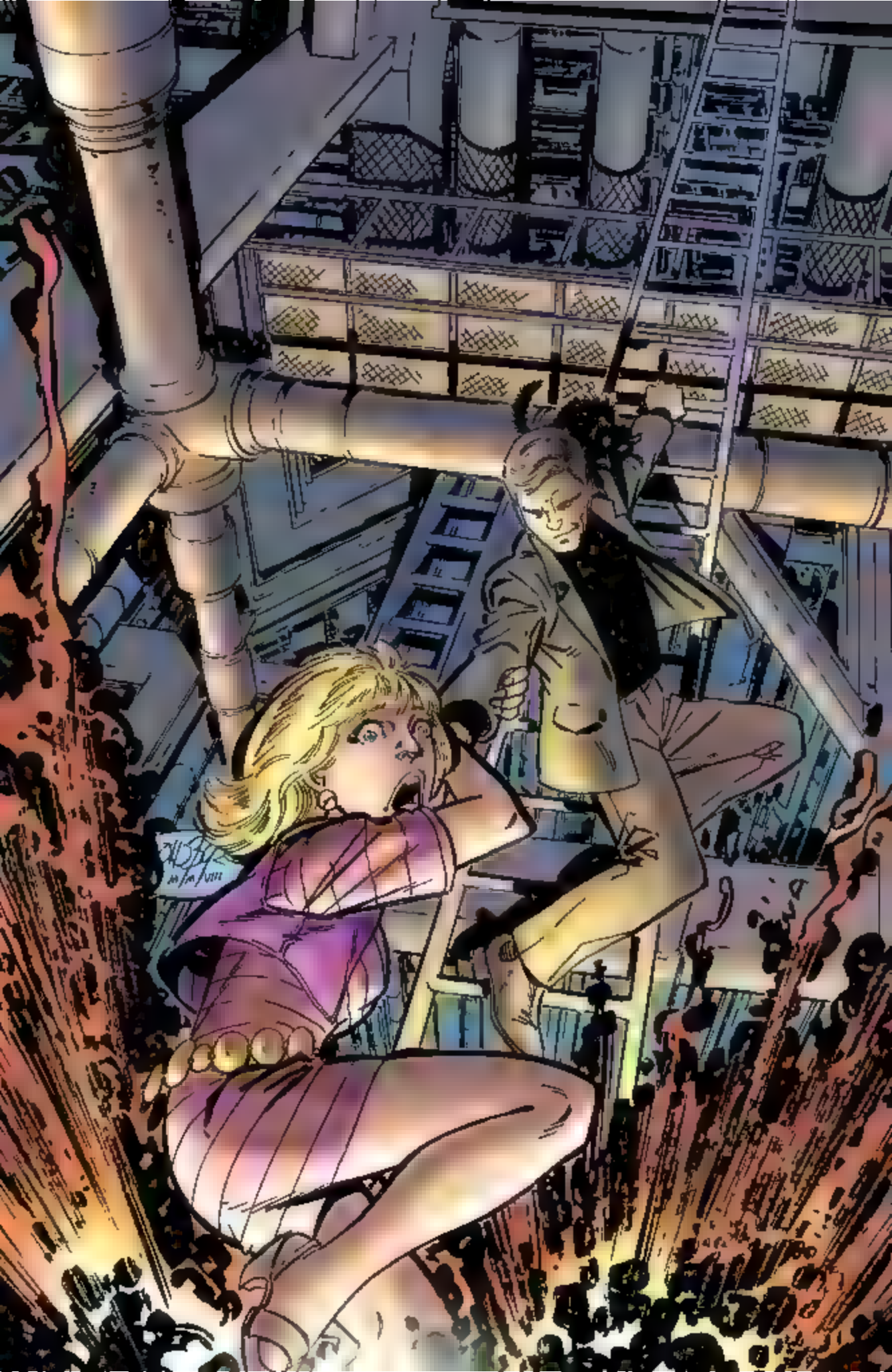
OMIGOSH!
OMIGOSH!
OMIGOSH!
IT'S SOAKING IN! IT'S GONNA STAIN THE WALL TO-WALL
ISIS- QUICK! GRAB SOME PAPER TOWELS FROM THE CLOSET IN RECEPTION!
GOTCHA!

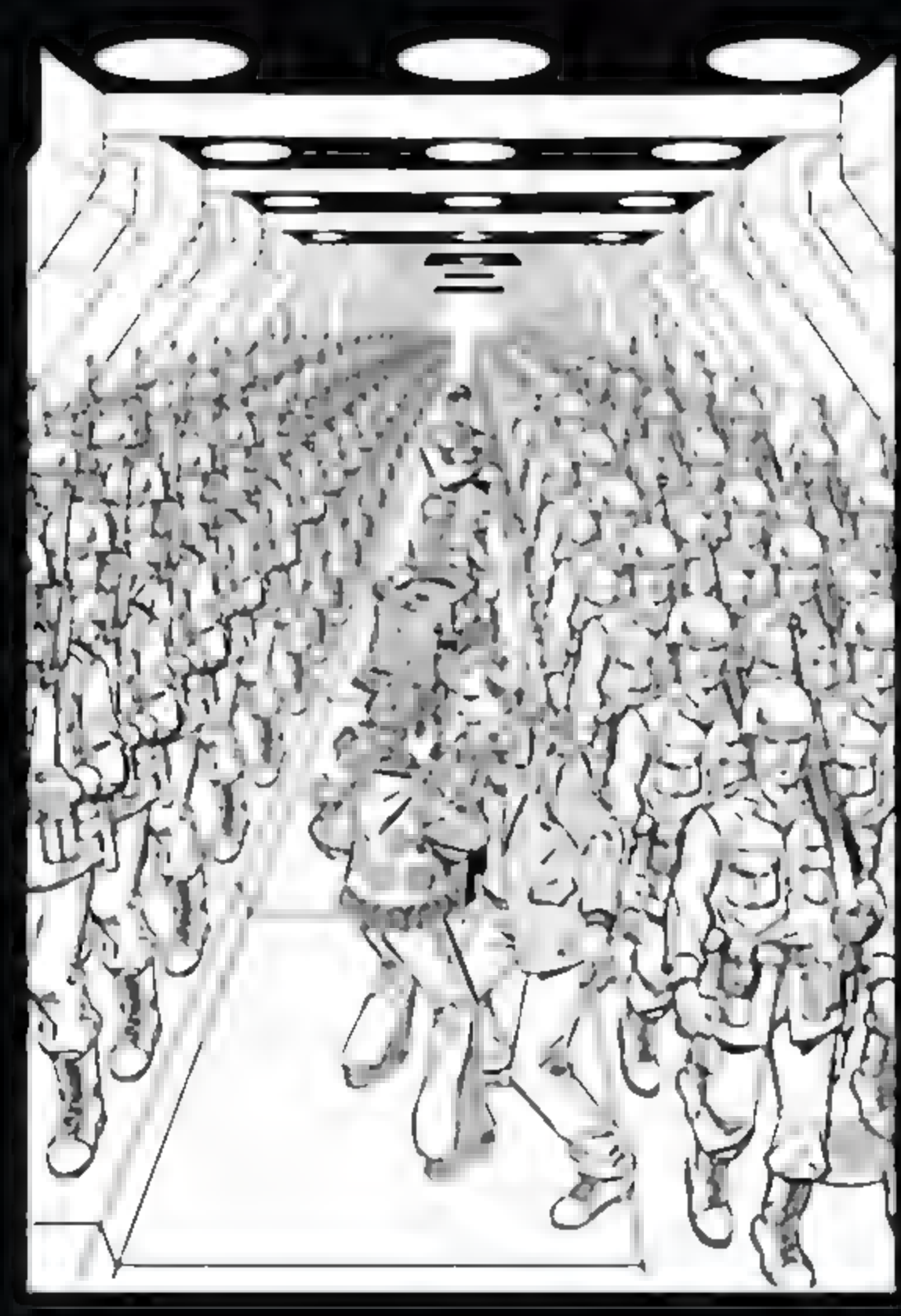
GOOD MORNING, KIS. HOW ARE
YOU?
OH, HI, MR. SEVEN.
HOPE YOU CAN SPARE ME FOR ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES
I PROMISED MY FRIEND MALLY THAT I'D GET THIS STUFF BACK TO THE MAGIC SHOP WHERE HE WORKS BEFORE HIS BOSS GETS IN!
I'LL BE BACK IN TIME TO HELP SAVE THE WORLD AGAIN!
THE END. FOR NOW

John Byrne

STAR TREK

ART GALLERY





STAR TREK®
ASSIGNMENT: EARTH

The 1968 TV episode "Assignment Earth" had been the Season Two finale for the original *Star Trek* series, and was intended by Gene Roddenberry as the pilot for a spin-off series that never came to pass. Now, John Byrne delivers the series 40 years after it would have debuted, recounting the adventures of interstellar agent Gary Seven and his Earth-born assistant as they covertly confront threats to the past so that they can save *Star Trek*'s future. Byrne writes and draws the series, which steps one year forward with each installment, beginning with 1968, the year that the spin-off series would have appeared.